



CEDARS CHURCH

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Our Congregational Mission:

Worship with open hearts
Serve justice with compassion

Nurture a learning spirit
Love without judgment

Welcome to Cedars!

Unitarian Universalist congregations are part of a long and distinctive heritage in the American Free Church tradition, which affirms freedom of belief. We organize ourselves not by required theological statements, but around a set of principles that calls you to put more faith in yourself, your community and your beliefs. Simply put, we are a guided path towards a better you and a better world. *(See Principles on back page.)*



Learning to live these principles is a lifelong journey and the desire to be together in community for that journey is one good reason we come to Cedars.

You may want to consider becoming a member of Cedars. This brochure and it's suggested paths into active participation will help you. Like many congregations, Cedars depends on the participation and contributions of its Members and Friends. Those contributions include sharing your time and talents as well as your financial support.

Whether you choose to become a Member or not, we welcome your presence and participation among us.

Let us know if you have any questions.

The Community Life Team

Attend Sunday services.



On Sunday mornings we create a space where we can center ourselves in a vibrant circle of friends, finding important renewal, stimulation and meaning. Whatever else happens in our lives, Sunday services are a dependable and cherished touchstone around which our congregation orbits.



A Message From the Board of Trustees

The Cedars Board of Trustees would like to welcome you to our church. We are glad you are here!

Cedars is embarking on a grand adventure. With the help of many steadfast leaders in our community, we are preparing for a new minister, both in the interim and beyond. We've entered a "new era" now with a period of lay-led leadership before welcoming an Interim Minister in August 2017.

One of the wonderful aspects of Unitarian Universalism is the role of volunteers and lay leaders in church governance and programming. At this time, our lay-led services are conducted by our Worship Associates along with invited guest speakers or ministers. Worship Associates work closely with our Sunday Services Committee and Music Director to prepare reflections, presentations, select readings, music, and a story for all ages to present the information and perspective in the spiritual context of our Unitarian Universalist 7 Principals. Most Sundays follow the same basic order of service, giving a framework of familiarity and ritual to the diversity of topics and presentation styles.

Religious Education for our youth.



We believe that faith is a journey we take together. Religious education takes a lifetime. It happens both within and beyond a congregation's walls. We support one another as individuals, families, and communities in an ongoing search for truth and meaning.

We strive to guide one another—all ages among us—in religious questioning, personal change, and discovering ways to better live in faith. To read more about our Religious Education program, please visit our website at CedarsUUchurch.org and click on the "Learning" tab. Or contact our Director of Religious Education, Jennifer Conway at DRE@cedarsUUchurch.org.

Work on spiritual development.

Together we bring great intention toward understanding ourselves both internally and externally, growing into ever-deeper awareness of our being and our place in the universe.



Lifelong Learning for Adults

We value lifelong learning that carries us toward knowing and developing the gifts that allow us to "be the best that we can be."

For UUs there is no one way for this to happen, and each of us has the joyful challenge to customize our journey into that uncertain but always hopeful future.

Cedars provides many opportunities for exploring both spiritual and personal realms of understanding. Quarterly **Activity Guides** can be found on the Activities Table at each Sunday service or contact Office@cedarsUUchurch.org to have one emailed to you.

Connect with Cedars.

Our weekly email newsletter, The Beacon, brings news and announcements of Cedars UU Church every Friday. When you fill out our GUEST CARD (available on the visitor table), we will add your name to the email list for our weekly newsletter, The Beacon.

Please check out our website at CedarsUUchurch.org and click on the Calendar tab to see up-to-date activities and events. Visit our Beacon Newsletter page for the most current announcements of activities and general news about Cedars.

Share your time and talents.

We bring our gifts into a cooperative project that has limited staff, so we take turns providing a portion of our time to creatively serving the good of the whole. In this way we build community together and ensure that no one is doing too much.

The many activities circulating in and around Cedars exist because our competent and able staff, as well as people like you, have stepped forward to give their time and skills to help make them happen.



There are volunteer opportunities to suit almost every circumstance of time and talent. Serving on committees and the board are obvious ones, but there are also many other ways to volunteer. Whether your contribution of time and talent is large or small, all gifts are welcome.

Cedars Teams provide an easy opportunity to get to know a smaller group of people while providing important service to Cedars. The congregation is divided into six teams that take turns providing the setup for our worship services, have social gatherings to get to know each other, and serve the community by providing food for Super Suppers.



Other opportunities to volunteer might include:

- Serve on a committee
- Be an RE teacher or helper
- Serve on the board
- Help with stewardship campaign
- Serve on a taskforce
- Offer rides to church
- Take a meal to a new parent
- Sing in the choir
- Help with the auction
- Lead a parent group
- Teach a class
- Help at Women's Retreat
- Be a greeter

Connect and deepen relationships.

Communities are filled with many diverse people. The challenge of community is finding a way to be together through all kinds of circumstances.

Cedars is full of amazing and wonderful people. This is one of the primary reasons many people keep coming. We delight in each other's joy, help each other in times of need, and work together when difficult issues arise. There are many ways to get to know others in the congregation in addition to joining a committee and visiting during the coffee hour after church. Here are a few of them.

Women's Retreat

Each year Cedars sponsors a retreat for Cedars women at the retreat center in Seabeck, WA, currently held in the spring. The retreat is centered around a theme with workshops, and gatherings.



Pastoral Care Team



The Pastoral Care Team works in a continuing process to cherish and care for members of our congregation in times of need. They are trained to listen and offer confidential support to members. They are also able to refer members to community services and/or professionals when needed.

Cedars Dinner Connections

An opportunity to get to know new friends and deepen our connections with those we already know. Everyone participates in providing a prearranged part of the meal. The hosts are gracious, the food delicious and the conversation delightful. Sign up at the Information table on Sunday mornings.



Be involved in social justice and action.

We seek to “walk the talk” and take strides toward a better world, which strengthens the backbone of our religious association.



It is clear to us that we all flourish or flounder together—“all” and “together” meaning just what they say. Our affirmation of the interdependence of life on this finite Earth draws us into meaningful service that adds to the greater good. Specific educational efforts and projects toward justice help us build larger community as we strive to live out our values.

Cedars Justice Network is an umbrella organization for several social justice activities at Cedars, including the Welcoming Congregation program (to increase understanding and acceptance of LGBTQ people), the Cross Cultural Book Group (to advance understanding and awareness of the “new American mainstream” through literature and other media), and the Green Sanctuary program, among others.

The Social Action Committee believes that a commitment to social action is a natural extension of both our church’s mission statement and UU principles. A few of their ongoing projects include: monthly special collections, Super Suppers, summer and Thanksgiving food collections for Helpline (BI) and Fishline (Poulsbo), and all age service

Connect to the wider UU movement.

With eyes and ears attuned, we notice and listen to inspiration that emerges from the thriving and much larger Unitarian Universalist context.

Read the *UU World* an award-winning national magazine (in print or online) that capably represents our liberal religious values in a wider society. Attend local, regional, and national conferences and workshops. Attending UU gatherings is always inspiring and educational. Visit UUA.org for more information.



Pledge financial support.

Our monetary contributions breathe health into this project and provide the lifeblood that encourages vitality in many ways.



Our cherished heritage of “congregational polity” prevents any other group or official from exerting control over us; we are our own authority. This in no small way emerges from our financial independence, which also means we must support ourselves. We are grateful for our excellent facilities and wonderful professional staff of music director, religious education director, and office assistant. Along with our talented and resourceful members we are able to offer a rich program in support of our mission. The Cedars Board of Trustees works hard to steward our resources and depends on the generosity of all our Members and Friends to keep Cedars fiscally healthy.

How much should you give?

Cedars annual budget of approximately \$240,000 comes almost entirely from the commitments or pledges that members and friends make each year. Everyone gives differently based on their particular circumstances. What we know is that the church provides many benefits to all the people it serves from pastoral care to wonderful music to meaningful programs to religious education for our children and youth. Your pledge, when added to the commitments of other members and friends, allows Cedars to thrive.

Each year, Cedars invites members to give through our annual Stewardship campaign, which usually happens in March. During that campaign, you can learn what “fair share” giving is and exactly where your money will be spent at Cedars. Between campaigns, new members are asked to pledge at an amount that works for them. We hope you will want to give generously to Cedars for all the good work it does!

What's next?

- ♦ Find anyone with the “Ask Me” tag and let them know you are interested in considering membership. (They will connect you with a person to talk with.)
- ♦ Turn in a completed Commitment to Join form
- ♦ Make a pledge to Cedars for the remainder of the current church year (ends June 30). At this point you become an official Member of Cedars.
- ♦ Sign the Cedars Membership Book, usually done with a group of other new members at the end of an Ingathering ceremony during a Sunday service once or twice a year.

The 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism:

- 1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person.*
- 2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.*
- 3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.*
- 4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.*
- 5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.*
- 6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.*
- 7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are all a part.*

OUR LIVING TRADITION, WHICH DRAWS FROM SIX SOURCES:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men that challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions, which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings, which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings, which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions, which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church

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