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The Beacon

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



Volume 16 Issue 2/ January 9, 2025

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This Week At Cedars

Sunday Service, January 12 10:00 am

A Sanctuary People

Rev. Jennifer Alvair, Guest Minister Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

How can we cultivate spiritual strength and resilience during times of global crises? How might we learn to build trust across differences in today's polarized nation? Come join us as we explore these interdisciplinary questions through the lens of peacebuilding and ecological renewal.

Rev. Jennifer Alviar is an ordained UU minister and spiritual innovator. She lives out her ministry at the intersection of health equity and public gardens. Currently, she is engaged in a yearlong collaborative

leadership program designing sacred spaces of healing and liberation for underserved, underrepresented people within the BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ and disability communities.

Childcare will be offered during this service, for details click HERE.



Monday, January 13

Men's Group 7:00 - 9:00 pm Cedars Center Please see below for more details

Wednesday, January 15

Meditation Group 5:30 - 6:30 pm Cedars Center Please see below for more details

View detailed calendar here.

News and Announcements

Congregational Meeting - January 12th

On January 12, after the Sunday Service (at approximately 11:15 am), the Board will hold a **Congregational Meeting** as we typically do midway through the Cedars fiscal year.

You can find the meeting agenda HERE.

New to Cedars Conversation

Are you new to Cedars and wonder what Unitarian Universalism is all about? Do you want to know more about this community? Do you want to know how and when to become a member and what that means for you? If you have questions about Cedars, this is the time and place to ask them!

Come to our New to Cedars Conversation on February 2, after the service in the library at The Island School from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm. Fill

your coffee cup and join the conversation! Please let us know if you would like us to provide childcare by emailing **office@cedarsuuchurch.org**.



Composting Communion

On January 5, as part of our Sunday service, the Rev. Bruce Bode led a "Composting Communion" for participants to bid farewell to their positive or negative energies from the past year so that those energies can be made available for new growth in the coming year. He also centered his sermon around Denise Levertov's poem,

Only Once

All which, because it was flame and song and granted us joy, we thought we'd do, be, revisit, turns out to have been what it was that once, only; every invitation did not begin a series, a build-up: the marvelous did happen in our lives, our stories are not drab with its absence: but don't expect to return for more. Whatever more there will be will be unique as those were unique. Try to acknowledge the next song in its body -- halo of flames as utterly present, as now or never.



You can listen to Rev. Bode's service on Spotify HERE or read a transcript HERE.

Interfaith Peace Prayer Vigil

This event is organized by the ministers of Bainbridge Island churches and will be held on Jan 19, gathering at Pia the Peace Troll at Sakai Park at 5 pm. All are invited to bring a prayer for peace from your spiritual tradition.

Climate Cafe

The **Climate Café** is a safe place for people to come together in circles of trust to share and bear compassionate witness to the varied personal perceptions they have about the future of our **Earth** home and our interconnected life.

This event will be Saturday, February 1, from 9:00 - 11:00 am at The Island School. You can find more information, including registration **HERE**.

Childcare on Sunday Mornings!

Good news! We will be offering childcare for families with young children during our Sunday services starting in January! Thanks to our volunteers, Sandy Spears, Rebecca Kim, Susan Shaffer, and Mary Romeo, along with our newly hired childcare assistant, Marcus Stroman, we are able to offer Sunday morning childcare again after a nearly five-year absence. If a family you know of has not been able to attend any of our Sunday services because of a lack of childcare, please let them know about this new development! We look forward to welcoming some new faces that otherwise have not been able to come and be with us on Sunday mornings!

For details about how childcare will be provided, click **HERE**.

Men's Group Welcomes New Members

The **Cedars Men's Group** will meet in person at 7:00 pm **on January 13** at the Cedars Center to welcome any men who would like to consider joining. We meet once a month on the second Monday of each month, alternating between in-person and Zoom meetings. For more information, please contact Herb Hethcote, **herbert-hethcote@uiowa.edu**

Cedars on Social Media

Cedars now has a podcast! We will be posting our Sunday Services on **Spotify HERE**, on the **Apple Podcast** app **HERE**, on Amazon Music **HERE**, and on **iHeartRadio HERE** for easier access to our audio recordings. Our podcast is called **"Sunday Mornings at Cedars."**



We are also now on Instagram! Find us HERE.

And as usual, find us on our Church **Facebook** page **HERE** and our **Community Facebook** page **HERE**.

Be sure to "Like" us and "Follow" us on each one!

You can also still find audio recordings of our Services on our website HERE.

Beacon Article Deadline

The new deadline for submitting content for The Beacon is now <u>Mondays</u> by the end of the day. If you would like to add an article, please send it to the Cedars Office at **Office@cedarsuuchurch.org**.

Ongoing Programs

Meditation Group

Join us for meditation practice on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Cedars Center. We will use mindfulness or Vipassana Meditation audio recordings from the Insight Meditation Center in Redwood City. For questions, please contact **Sandy Spears** at **sandy.spears@att.net**.

Super Supper and Community Kitchen Sign-Ups

Cedars, in partnership with Kol Shalom as members of the Bainbridge Island Interfaith Council, offers Super Supper dinners on the last Tuesday of each month. We have a regular sign-up for you to use each month to provide various dishes and to assist with setup, serving,

and cleanup, so that all in our congregation have a chance to participate. You can find the sign-up for Super Suppers **HERE**.

Cedars is also committed to leading the preparation and serving of a free meal to anyone in the community every other month through the Suquamish Community Kitchen. These meals require many helping hands to prepare, serve, and clean up. Please consider signing up **HERE** for one of the team member roles on the upcoming date, Wednesday, March 12.



For more information, contact **Mike Cox** at 206-799-3725. or **toxman57@gmail.com** or **Rod Kempkes** at **rdkempkes@gmail.com**.

Cedars Facebook Conversations

If you're on Facebook, there is a new Facebook group called Cedars UU Church Community Conversations for members and friends to share events, fun stories, etc. Let's keep the coffee hour going all week long! Join the group **HERE**.



Cedars UU Church is a Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary



Our Congregational Mission

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

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.

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 and here.

Worship Services

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. The Island School 8553 NE Day Road Bainbridge Island

Pastoral Care

Rev. Jessica Star Rockers revjessicastar@gmail.com

Office at Cedars

Michelle Welsh, Office Administrator Tuesday - Thursday, 9 am - 2 pm 284 Madrona Way, NE #128 Bainbridge Island WA 98110 (206) 780-0373 office@cedarsuuchurch.org Do you have an article, event, or announcement? Send it to Office@cedarsuuchurch.org. the Thursday newsletter (3 days in advance). See our <u>submission guidelines</u>.

Cedars UU Church (website)





Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church | 284 Madrona Way NE, #128 | Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 US

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