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The Beacon

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



CEDARS CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 16 Issue 1/ January 2, 2025

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This Week At Cedars

Sunday Service, January 5
10:00 am

Once Only

Rev. Bruce Bode, Guest Minister
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate

This service near the beginning of the new year will, Janus-like, look both ways. Following a sermon message engaging Denise Levertov's poem "Once Only" as its text, it will include a "Composting Communion", and then in community we will greet the New Year!



Bruce A. Bode is Minister Emeritus at the Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (QUUF) in Port Townsend, Washington, from which he retired in 2018 as the Senior Minister after serving the congregation for fourteen years (2004-2018). He has previously served UU congregations in Houston, Tulsa, and Grand Rapids, MI.

Childcare will be offered during this service, for details click [HERE](#).

Wednesday, January 8

Meditation Group

5:30 - 6:30 pm

Cedars Center

Please see below for more details

Suquamish Community Kitchen

4:00 - 7:00 pm

Suquamish United Church of Christ

Please see below for more details

[View detailed calendar here.](#)

Upcoming Service

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 Alvair 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](#).

News and Announcements

Board News

Ministerial Search Committee formed

At its December 12 meeting, the Board approved the formation of a **Ministerial Search Committee (MSC)** consisting of Jeff Philip, Patricia Erdmann, Herb Hethcote, Liz Motter, and Rod Kempkes. Naomi Gary has also volunteered to serve on the committee. The MSC's charge is to engage in a search for a part-time, contract minister under the UUA's defined process. The MSC will begin meeting in January and hopes to recommend a preferred candidate to the Board later this spring.

Hold the Date! - Congregational Meeting - January 12

On January 12, after the Sunday Service (starting at approximately 11:15 am), the Board will hold a **Congregational Meeting** as we typically do midway through the Cedars fiscal year. The final agenda will be sent out a week before the meeting, but the expected topics will include:

- a vote on adding new members to the Nominating Committee
- an update from the Ministerial Search Committee
- an update on our mid-year financial situation
- an update on our spring Stewardship campaign
- updates from various committees

- Cedars Board of Trustees

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](#).

Cedars Winter Solstice Service



More than 60 Cedars members, friends, and visitors gathered for a special Winter Solstice celebration on December 22.

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 Mondays 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, January 8.

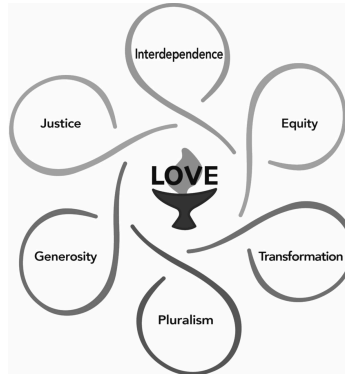
For more information, contact **Mike Cox** at 206-799-3725. or toxman57@gmail.com or **Rod Kempkes** at rdkempkes@gmail.com.

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

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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 \(website\)](#)



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