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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 20 May 15, 2025



CEDARS CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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This Week At Cedars

Sunday Service, May 25
10:00 am

Prayer in a Time of Chaos

Kathryn LaFond, Guest Speaker
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

When fear tries to drive the bus of our lives, how do we remain loving? We live in a world increasingly hostile to those fighting for liberation, fighting for freedom from harm. The gifts in this moment may be that we are forced to learn how to center, ground, nourish, and focus.

Kathryn LaFond, Intuitive Energy Healer/Health Coach, Author and Wise Woman Herbalist, trained in ancient wisdom traditions, is a life-long seeker who brings spiritual guidance from innumerable mentors. She is devoted to helping us remember the sacred in everyday life.

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



Tuesday, May 27

Super Suppers
5:00 pm
Eagle Harbor Congregational Church
Please see below for more details

Wednesday, May 21

Meditation Group on Zoom
4:30 - 5:30 pm
Zoom
Please see below for more details

[View detailed calendar here.](#)

Upcoming Service

Sunday Service, June 1
10:00 am

“Discovering Beauty in Unexpected Places”

Rev. Jennifer Alvair, Guest Minister
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate

Sometimes beauty has the power to shake up the status quo, re-examine our assumptions, and invite curiosity. Come join us as we learn to embrace the paradox of beauty, wonder and courage as wise companions on our spiritual journey. Welcome!

Rev. Jennifer Alvair is a Unitarian Universalist minister, spiritual innovator and avid community builder. She cultivates positive relationships across diverse disciplines including civic leadership, arts and culture, health equity and climate justice. Her vision is to connect people to places of belonging where they feel empowered to enact meaningful social change.



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

News and Announcements

BI Japanese Exclusion Memorial Tour!

Many of us have visited the Japanese Exclusion Memorial, but most have not visited with someone who spent time living at Manzanar, Minidoka, or other incarceration locations during WWII. Our tour guide will be Lilly Kitamoto Kodama, an inspiring woman in her 90s who will share her perspectives as someone who was sent away from Bainbridge when she was 7 years old.



Please join us for an exclusive tour of the Japanese Exclusion Memorial at Prichard Park on June 1. You can find more information, including signup [HERE](#).

Serving our Community from the Kitchen

On Wednesday, May 14, our Cedars team prepared and served another delicious community meal with the Suquamish Community Kitchen, as we have been doing every other month. The menu included baked penne pasta, green beans, garlic bread, and chocolate brownies, and was enjoyed by 69 members of the community who showed up to enjoy a meal together. 24 takeout boxes were prepared for folks to pick up from the community fridge later in the week. Since Cedars began participating in the Suquamish Community Kitchen in February 2024, **we have prepared and served a total of 741 meals!** If you'd like to sign up to help and join the fun when we do it next on July 23 and other dates in 2025, click [HERE](#).



Mortal-i-tea with Johanna Munson and the EdgeWalking Collective

Death happens. Let's talk about it! Mortal-i-tea is a space for coming together with your fellow mortals to discuss our shared fate and to enjoy tea and snacks while we're at it. This group will facilitate open, informal conversations about death and dying; it is not intended to provide grief counseling. No agenda, no religion. The first Mortal-i-tea will be offered on Wednesday, June 11, from 6:00 - 8:30 pm. You can sign up [HERE](#).





UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
BALTIMORE • JUNE 18 - 22, 2025

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), where participants gather to worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy decisions for the Association through a democratic process. From June 18–22, 2025, the 64th UUA General Assembly will be a multi-platform event, with the main stage hosted at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland. You can find out more about GA [HERE](#).

May Special Collection: BI Japanese Exclusion Memorial Association (BIJAEMA)

Cedars holds a Special Collection monthly for community outreach to educate our congregation about the work of various non-profit organizations that reflect our values and to channel our generosity in support of them. On May 25, we will be collecting funds to support the building of a visitor center for BIJAEMA. BIJAEMA stands as a poignant testament to the resilience and spirit of a community faced with adversity during World War II. You can find more information [HERE](#).



Our Successful 2025-2026 Pledge Drive!

This year our Cedars community demonstrated one of our core Unitarian Universalist values of **Generosity**. We have received 37 pledges to date, for a total of \$126,940, **exceeding our target by 15%!** If you still haven't made your pledge, we will certainly appreciate your response. If you did not receive a pledge form in the mail and would like to make a pledge to support our Cedars community, **you can make a pledge by clicking [HERE](#)**.



Thank you for supporting our beloved Cedars community!

Hold the Date!

We will be having our **Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 8**, after the service at The Island School. At the meeting, members will vote on the 2025-2026 annual budget and elect members to the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee. Please mark your calendars for this important event!

Community Events

Standing Together, Bainbridge Island

A group of concerned Bainbridge citizens, under the banner "Standing Together," are planning a town hall rally for democracy on June 7 from 12:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the Lynwood Theater on Bainbridge Island. You can find more information about this event [HERE](#).



Ongoing Programs

Meditation Group on Zoom!

Join us for meditation practice on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. We will meet on Zoom, using mindfulness or Vipassana Meditation audio recordings from the Insight Meditation Center in Redwood City. You can find the link to the meditation [HERE](#). For questions, please contact **Sandy Spears** at meditation@cedarsuuchurch.org

Childcare on Sunday Mornings!

Good news! We now offer childcare for families with young children during our Sunday services! If you know a family that hasn't been able to attend on Sundays because of a lack of childcare, please tell them about this. We look forward to welcoming some new faces that otherwise wouldn't be able to be with us on Sunday mornings! For details about how childcare is provided, click [HERE](#).

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, July 23.

For more information, contact **Mike Cox** at socialaction@cedarsuuchurch.org or **Rod Kempkes** at president@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Cedars on Social Media

Cedars now has a podcast! We are 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](#).

Cedars Office Hours

Cedars has new office hours as follows: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, with remote hours (available via email) on Wednesdays from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Beacon Article Deadline

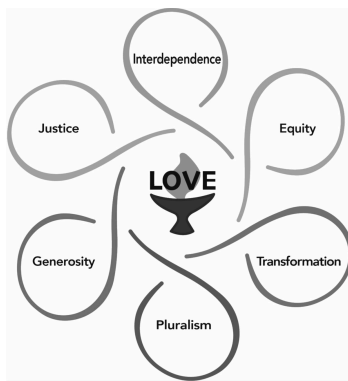
The deadline for submitting content for The Beacon is Mondays by the end of the day. If you would like to add an article, please send it to the Cedars Office at Office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

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

Cedars Minister

Rev. Margo Rinehart, Cedars Minister

Tuesday 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
284 Madrona Way, NE #128
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
(206) 780-0373
Minister@cedarsuuchurch.org

Cedars Office

Michelle Welsh, Office Administrator

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm in office hours
Wednesday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm remote office hours
284 Madrona Way, NE #128
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
(206) 780-0373
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 Office@cedarsuuchurch.org for inclusion in our Thursday newsletter (3 days in advance). See our [submission guidelines](#).

Cedars UU Church (website)





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