

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 25 June 20, 2025

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This Week At Cedars

Sunday, June 22
10:00 am

Brunch and Banter- The Practice of Freedom

Rev. Margo Rinehart, Cedars Minister
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate

We'll meet at the Picnic Shelter at Battle Point Park. Bring your own dishes and silverware in addition to your brunch contribution! The topic questions will be...



1. *When did you feel most free as a child?*
2. *Has quitting ever set you free?*
3. *What story from your life best captures your understanding of freedom?*
4. *Whose freedom do you envy?*
5. *Would living more simply bring you more freedom?*

You can find more information [HERE](#).

Friday, June 20

Orca Month
4:30 pm
Bainbridge Island Ferry Terminal
Please see below for more details

Tuesday, June 24

Super Suppers
4:00 pm
Eagle Harbor Congregational Church
Please see below for more details

[View detailed calendar here.](#)

Upcoming Service

Sunday Service, June 29
10:00 am

How do we respond when chaos happens?

Rev. Barbara Gilday, Guest Minister
Mike Cox, Worship Associate

When life catches us off guard, how do we respond - in families, in communities, in our country? What can we learn from deaths in two families, from a city devastated by earthquakes, and from our current political environment?



How can communication, planning and community action make a difference in our states of mind and long-term outcomes? How we live our principles makes all the difference in our peace of mind and how our lives move from this point on.

Rev. Barbara Gilday came to professional ministry in mid-life, but her life has been full of inquiry, diversity, social justice, connecting and sharing with others: Teaching in Ghana, Hosting Japanese Exchange Programs, developing peer tutoring programs, hosting a Ukrainian refugee, to name a few. Currently, she is exploring in new and deeper ways, how we continue to find joy in, and give value to life as our capacities change. Barbara is the grateful member of a loving, blended family, and a new mom to a young rescue dog, Marley, who keeps her physically active.

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

News and Announcements

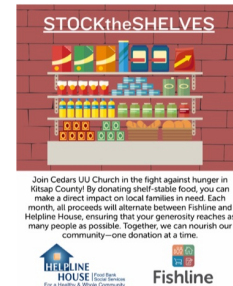
June Special Collection: Friends of the Farms

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. For June, we will be collecting funds to support the Friends of the Farms Shared Harvest Initiative. The Shared Harvest purchases fresh, locally grown produce, eggs, and meat from 10 local family-owned farmers and delivers it directly to Helpline House's food bank. You can find more information [HERE](#).



CEDARS presents: STOCKtheSHELVES!

This month our Social Action Committee is pleased to introduce a new way to help people in our community. At the start of each month, we'll provide a list of the most needed shelf-stable items for local food banks. At the last Sunday Service of that month (starting June 29), we'll collect donations and deliver them to Helpline or Fishline on alternating months. [HERE](#) is Helpline's list of what's most needed for June's STOCKtheSHELVES.



A Message from Rev. Margo

Exploring Our UU Value of Generosity During the Current Food Crisis

This week activists Greta Thunberg and Rima Hassan stood aboard the Madleen Freedom Flotilla in a brave attempt to bring food aid to Gaza, because Palestinians living in the bombed and hollowed out Gaza are starving. Here in our local North Kitsap and Bainbridge Island communities, food banks are struggling with deep funding cuts and increased need. During this time, and always, our UU Values of Generosity, which connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality, call us to share our resources.

This past week the Bainbridge Island and North Kitsap Interfaith group (BINK-IFC) shared information about the increasing numbers of individuals and families seeking meals at Grace Episcopal, Saint Cecelia and the Suquamish United Church of Christ. The number of households Helpline is assisting has doubled in the last two years and they no longer have enough food to fill the shelves. Funding for purchasing fresh food has been cancelled and commodities funding has been reduced by up to 40%. The need to feed our neighbors is immediate and intense.

Our faith calls us to our value of Generosity. It asks us to cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope and to covenant to freely and compassionately share our presence and resources. By doing so our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality. Let's grow our resilience and work together to feed our neighbors.

This month Naomi Gary and Patricia Erdmann are starting us off with an ongoing food drive through Cedars UUC. BINK-IFC is considering returning to monthly food drives outside of

Town and County and Safeway. Over the next weeks and months, look for ways you can help. Non-perishable food, hygiene supplies and checks are all welcome!

*In the end it won't matter how much we have, but how generously we have given.
It won't matter how much we know, but rather how well we live.
And it won't matter how much we believe, but how deeply we love. Rev. John Morgan*

UUA News and Information

To learn more about UUA values, news, and information, click on the image or [HERE](#). You'll also find a permanent image link at the bottom of each newsletter for easy access.



Community Events

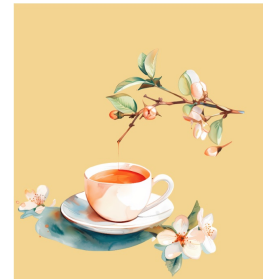
It's Orca Month!

June is Orca Action Month, and Backbone is hosting several events. One is a Multi-City Banner Action. We are looking for two volunteers to help hold the Bainbridge banner on Friday, June 20, at 4:40 for approximately one hour around ferry arrival and departure. The banner will say, 'Remove the Lower Snake River Dams to Save the SR Orcas.' Please get in touch with Sandy at office@cedarsuuchurch.org



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 Tuesday, July 8, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. You can sign up [HERE](#).



Ongoing Programs

Cedars Book Group

Our next book to be discussed via Zoom, on Wednesday, August 13 at 1:30 pm, will be "*Homewaters, a Human & Natural History of Puget Sound*", by David B Williams. It covers glaciers and volcanoes carving up Puget Sound, examines the history of early Native communities, and then colonial settlements. Then Keystone species--salmon, orca, rockfish, herring, kelp, and how we can protect them." Please contact Mary Romeo with any questions. You can find more information [HERE](#).



Rev. Margo Drop-in Hours!

Rev. Margo will have drop-in office hours on Tuesdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm from June 10 through July 1. Drop by and say hello to Reverend Margo, ask questions, or brainstorm ideas. Feel free to bring a sack lunch!

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

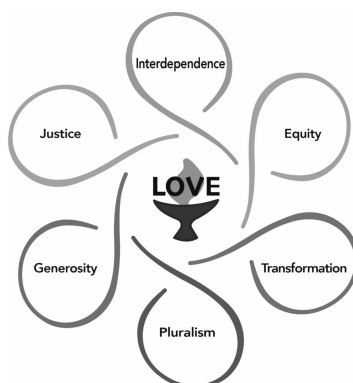
The deadline for submitting content for The Beacon is Mondays by the end of the day. If you would like to add an article, please send it to the Cedars Office at Office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

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 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Drop-in times: All Tuesdays in June, 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)



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

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