

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 27 July 3, 2025

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This Week At Cedars

Sunday Service, July 6
10:00 am

The Spirituality of Albert Einstein

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

This service explores the religious and spiritual beliefs of Albert Einstein and his beliefs about the relationship between science and religion. In Einstein's own words, "I am not an atheist...I believe in Spinoza's God who reveals himself in the orderly harmony of what exists, not in a God who concerns himself with the fates and actions of human beings."

Reverend Margo Rinehart is our minister at Cedars UU Congregation. She has been a Kitsap County resident for over 20 years before recently finishing a ministry in Bozeman, Montana, and we are very pleased that she has joined us.



Upcoming Service

Sunday Service, July 13
10:00 am

Blessing of the Animals

Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

St Francis of Assisi is the beloved Patron Saint of Animals. Unitarian Universalists have a very special connection to their animal friends and companions. We will bring our animal companions to Church this Sunday to honor them and give them the Blessing of the Animals. We will also hold space for animal companions who are no longer with us and are those who are unable to attend Sunday Services on this day.



News and Announcements

Newsletter July 2025 - Reverend Margo Rinehart

The Next Chapter of Our UU Legacy. Inspiring News From the 2025 General Assembly. While I did not attend General Assembly in person this year, I tuned in via Zoom for the business meetings in order to participate in elections of Moderators and members of the UUA Board. Other essential functions that occurred during business meetings of our Unitarian Universalist Association were selecting Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW) and a Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI). Both AIWs and CSAI are submitted by UUs, congregations for the CSAI and congregations or individuals for AIWs. They are not handed down from the UUA,

but rather submitted and eventually voted on by us. There is much to be done. Let us bring our minds, hearts and spirits to this work.

An Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) is a statement about a significant action, event, or development in the world that necessitates immediate engagement and action among UU member congregations and groups. The statement provides a framework for Unitarian Universalist congregations to respond quickly to social issues identified as urgent. Adopted AIWs include meaningful actions that Cedars and other congregations can take and who they might consider partnering with in those efforts.

If you want to study AIWs from past years, they can be accessed [HERE](#). I find the Action of Humanitarian Work and Climate Change to be a particularly clear example of what an AIW is trying to accomplish.

AIWs selected in 2025 are:

We Declare and Affirm: Immigrants Are People Who Have Inherent Worth and Inalienable Rights.

Faithful Defiance of Authoritarianism, a Call to Action: Reaffirming Our Covenants for Democracy and Freedom!

Defending LGBTIQ Freedom Amid Funding Crisis: A Call for Global Solidarity

CSAs are Congregational Study Action Issues. The UUA explains: "They are issues selected by Unitarian Universalist member congregations for three years of study, reflection and action. The purpose is to provide congregations of the Association with an opportunity to mobilize energy, ideas and resources around a common issue. The end result will be a deeper understanding of our religious position on the issue, a clear statement of Association policy as expressed in a Statement of Conscience, and a greater capacity for congregations to take effective action."

UU congregations will study the 2025 CSAI for a three-year period of time that will culminate in a vote at GA 2028. This year's CSAI begins: "The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) comes to the issue of abolition based on our accountability to the almost 2,000 incarcerated Unitarian Universalists who call our congregation their spiritual home. We believe that engaging the study-action process on this topic will be transformative for our members, our congregations, and our communities." The CLF shares with us that time and time again they have heard from their formerly or currently incarcerated partners in BIPOC communities that it will not be enough to abolish the prison-industrial complex. Rather we must abolish the process of dehumanization that made them possible in the beginning. The CSAI is propelled and uplifted by a calling for the change of hearts, minds, systems, and spirits.

The entire text of the Abolition, Transformation, and Faith Formation text can be found [HERE](#).

Vote for your Favorite Hymns!

Do you have a favorite hymn? The Music Committee would like you to vote for your favorite hymns for the Service on August 3. We will have paper ballots available at the Sunday Services on both July 6 and July 13. You also have the option to cast your vote online [HERE](#).



CEDARS presents: STOCKtheSHELVES!

Thanks to everyone who contributed on Sunday to our June STOCKtheSHELVES for Helpline! We contributed 51 pounds of food! Our next collection will be on July 27, and our contributions will go to Fishline. We also have a donation box at Cedars Center for your convenience. Here is Fishline's list of what's most needed for July: canned vegetables, canned fruit, tomato sauce, and baby wipes. Checks to Fishline are also welcome. Any questions? Ask Patricia Erdmann or Naomi Gary.



UUA News and Information

To learn more about UUA values, news, and

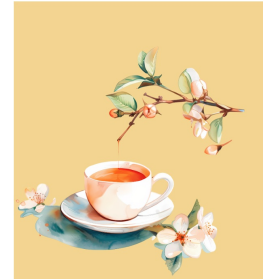
information, click on the image or [HERE](#). You'll also find a permanent image link at the bottom of each newsletter for easy access.



Community Events

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. It discusses 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](#).



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

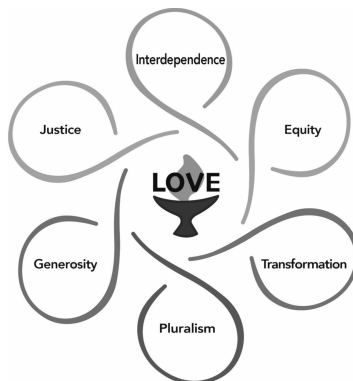
The deadline for submitting content for The Beacon is Mondays by the end of the day. If you would like to add an article, please send it to the Cedars Office at Office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

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

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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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