

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 36 September 4, 2025

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This Week At Cedars

Sunday Service, September 7
10:00 am

Water Communion

Rev. Margo Rinehart, Cedars Minister
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate

Join in with the annual sacred ritual of pouring together the experiences of our lives. Celebrate the water that nurtured our gardens, decorated our vacations and sustained our souls. Remember to bring a small amount of water for the communal vessel.



The Reverend Margo Rinehart serves Cedars through welcoming people from diverse theological and religious backgrounds and spiritual beliefs on their journeys to learn from one another, search for truth and answer the call of love and justice.

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

Saturday, September 6

Social Action Committee Retreat
3:00 - 4:30 pm
Naomi Gary's House
Please see below for more details

Tuesday, September 9

Men's Group
3:00 - 4:30 pm
Cedars Center
Please see below for more details

Wednesday, September 10

Wednesday Writing Group
10:00 am
Cedars Center
Please see below for more details

Suquamish Community Kitchen
4:00 - 6:30 pm
Suquamish United Church of Christ
Please see below for more details

[View detailed calendar here.](#)

Upcoming Service

Sunday Service, September 14
10:00 am

A Question of Faith

Rev. Jennifer Alviar, Guest Minister
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate

In our global society of multiple faith traditions and diverse spiritual practices, what does the word “faith” really mean? Does one have to accept a particular belief system in order to belong to a community of faith? Or could we revision faith as a vibrant way of life that keeps us morally grounded, yet also open and adaptable to the changing world around us? Join us as we explore a life-giving faith of hope and humanity during these uncertain times.



Rev. Jennifer Alviar 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 for this Service. Click [HERE](#) for details.

News and Announcements

Water Communion Reminder from Reverend Margo

Remember to bring a bit of water from your summer journeys, musings, celebrations and travels. This Sunday is our annual water ceremony. Water can be from whatever has spoken to you this summer: a stream, the beach or even the garden hose! Before Sunday, consider how that water brought you joy, meaning, celebration or, perhaps, sorrow. We will pour the waters together in a powerful community ritual that expresses our gratitude, belonging and joy.



Our Cedars Community Mourns the Passing of Carolyn Mitchell

It is with tenderness and care that I write to share that Alan Miller's wife of many years passed away last week. All who knew them could not help but be touched by the deep love that abided throughout their lifetime together, even as Carolyn needed significant care over the past few years. Let us draw together in peace and shared spirit of community as we hold Alan and Carolyn in our hearts now and always.

*Open your hearts, my friends, and let yourself feel the reality of absence.
Open your hearts and acknowledge that we gather in the presence of death.
Open your hearts. Make room for the healing balm of connection, the release of forgiveness.
No matter what pain dwells in your spirit,
Or how fragile the hope that struggles to be born,
There is a place for you here, in life's holy circle of compassion and love.*

By Maureen Killoran

The Cedars Care Team Request

The Cedars Care Team hopes to have Emergency Contact information available in case we need to reach someone during any of our services or events. You can enter this information on your personal page in Breeze. Please note: You will be asked to list TWO contacts. If it is more convenient, you can also email the Office Administrator at Office@cedarsuuchuruc.org with this information so that it can be entered in Breeze. Please see Liz Motter, Naomi Gary, or Susan Shaffer for more information.



Cedars Childcare Volunteer Opportunity:

We are currently seeking members who would like to assist with Childcare on September 13, 20, 27, October 4, 11, and 18. If you are interested in helping us, please email the Office Administrator at Office@cedarsuuchurch.org for more information.



Newsletter Cedars: From Reverend Margo Rinehart

Community...a circle of hands will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter, voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power...A circle of healing. A circle of friends. Someplace where we can be free. ~ Starhawk

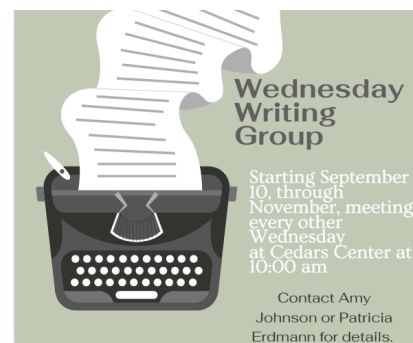
As late August blends into September, let us think of returning and belonging. The first Sunday worship service in September will be Water Communion, when we bring a small, precious offering of water from a source that sustained or delighted us during the summer. It is a time to gather and experience the power of community as we pour water into a communal vessel and feel the joy and be touched by the journeys of others. Listen intensely, for you are being softly called to this sacred time and ritual.

Starhawk, a keeper of wisdom, nestles her idea of community in longing for a place radiating with acceptance, perhaps a place we have never been. Recently, my musing about community led to the realization that even if we have stepped inside from time to time, it is an ever-changing place. New people arrive and we arrive anew. Perhaps recent experiences have shaped us, changed us, and we return with deeper understandings, a newly discovered piece of our identity, or a more open heart.

Wednesday Writing Group

Inspired by Suleika Jaouad's *The Book of Alchemy: A Creative Practice for an Inspired Life*, we are interested in developing our writing practice by making journaling an everyday routine in our lives. Care to join us?

We plan to meet at the Cedars Center at 10:00 am every other Wednesday, starting on Wednesday, September 10, going through November. Click [HERE](#) for more details and to sign up!



Transforming Hearts:

Responding to the Anti-Trans Movement: A Course for Unitarian Universalists. This brief course is designed to offer you an introduction to gender diversity and trans identity, help you understand the current political attack on trans people and the misinformation that is part of that attack, and train you in how to create safety and belonging for trans people in UU congregations in this moment. Three sessions will be held on three **Tuesday evenings, Sep 30, Oct 7 & 14**. You can click [HERE](#) for more details and to sign up!



Starting Point

Join us for a unique program designed to provide newcomers and long-timers with the opportunity to experience Unitarian Universalism rather than just hearing about it. It focuses on personal spiritual journeys and the historical journey of Unitarian Universalism and UUCDC as well as the shared journey that we travel together, which includes listening to one's deepest self, opening to life's gifts, and serving needs greater than our own. Four sessions will be held every other Sunday after the service on **Oct 5, 19, Nov 2, 16**. You can click [HERE](#) to sign up!



Spiritual Odyssey Potlucks

Spiritual Odyssey Potlucks are returning on the last Saturday of the month, starting **September 27!** We will have more details coming soon!



Social Action Committee Retreat

Join us for our inaugural annual retreat on **Saturday, September 6**, from 10 am to 1 pm, to help shape our collective actions in the year ahead. RSVP to Naomi Gary at Office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Sunday, September 7: Special Collection: Super Suppers and Suquamish Community Kitchen

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 August, we are collecting funds to help defray the costs of our **Super Suppers** that we offer with Kol Shalom on the last Tuesday of each month at Eagle Harbor Church and for our every other month Community Dinner at the Suquamish United Church of Christ.

If you would like to receive a tax deduction for your donation, please write a check payable to Cedars UU Church with Special Collection in the memo. This can be placed in the offering basket on **Sunday, September 7**, or sent to the Cedars Church Office by Thursday, September 10.

For more information, contact Mike Cox at Socialaction@cedarsuuchurch.org or Rod Kempkes at President@cedarsuuchurch.org.

CEDARS Presents: STOCKtheSHELVES!

This month, our contributions will go to **Fishline**. If you would like to help, we welcome both food donations and checks. Both can be dropped off at Sunday Service or at Cedars office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 2 pm. Here is a list of what's most needed at Fishline for September: canned soups, vegetables, and fruits AND diapers (size 4 & 5).



Last month, we collected a total of **76 pounds of food** for Helpline House! Way to go, everyone!

Any questions? Ask Naomi Gary or Patricia Erdmann.

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

Bobby Jo Valentine Concert

Come join us for an evening of music with PNW singer-songwriter Bobby Jo Valentine at Summit Ave Presbyterian Church, Saturday, **September 13 at 7:00 pm**. Bobby Jo Valentine is an explorative, hopeful, spiritual, gay artist who strives to make music and poetry that is good medicine for everyone. His music exists outside the lines of any genre, but the music's thoughtful, spirit-focused lyrics and catchy melodies reach listeners across all walks of life. You can find more information [HERE](#).



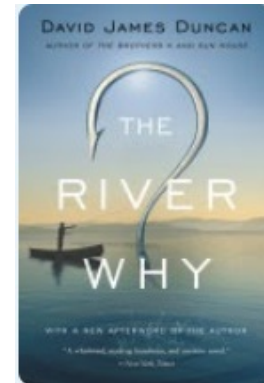
Ongoing Programs

Book Club

Our next book to be discussed via **Zoom**, on **Wednesday, October 15, at 1:30 pm**, will be "The River Why?" by David James Duncan. The classic novel of fly fishing and spirituality was republished with a new Afterword by the author.

Since its publication in 1983, The River Why has become a classic. David James Duncan's sweeping novel is a coming-of-age comedy about love, nature, and the quest for self-discovery, written in a voice as distinct and powerful as any in American letters.

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



Cedars Childcare on Sunday Mornings is Back!

Good news! We 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, September 10.

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 ChurchFacebook 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 office hours are now 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

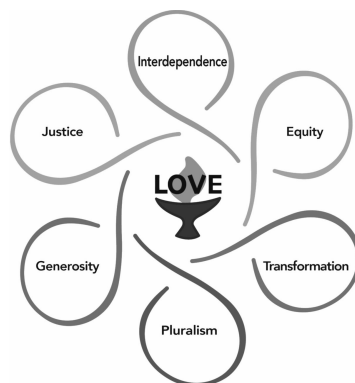
The deadline for submitting content for The Beacon is Mondays by the end of the day. If you would like to add an article, please send it to the Cedars Office at Office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

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)



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