

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 41 October 9, 2025

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This Week At Cedars

**Sunday Service, October 12
10:00 am**

Open Hearts, Open Minds

Rev. Michael Walker, Guest Minister
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate



Intentions speak of our values and where we wish to put our energy and efforts. A Buddhist teaching about namasté is that we recognize the worthiness in others, very much in alignment with our UU principles, such as when we say we respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person. That is sometimes a challenge -- not every person we come in contact with always shows us their good and humane self, and we have to remind ourselves that there is still some inherent worth within. Which brings me back to intention: my intention -- my best effort and desire -- is to approach each person in my life and in the wider world with an open heart and open mind. I don't have to agree with them (including some of the uber-conservative folks I have come across), but I still honor their worthiness as a human being who deserves to be in the world. My hope and wish is that they see the same in me, in you, in us all.

Rev. Michael Walker moved to the Olympic Peninsula in July 2023 for family reasons, although he has lived in the PNW before. He was introduced to UUism in the mid-90s, and is also involved in Pagan/Earth-Centered Spirituality, with inspirations and practices from Zen Buddhism. Mike attended seminary at Pacific School of Religion and was ordained as a UU minister in 2010 and has served as an Interim Minister at churches all over the country. He went on hiatus from parish ministry in order to complete a PhD in Clinical Psychology, and he is currently engaged in dissertation research about religious trauma, while also working as a psychotherapist in Port Angeles. Mike is a member of the Quimper UU Fellowship.

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

Tuesday, October 14

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

Transforming Hearts
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Cedars Center
Please see below for more details

Mortal-i-tea
6:30 - 8:00 pm
403 Madison Ave N
Please see below for more details

Wednesday, October 15

Book Club
1:30 pm
Zoom
Please see below for more details

[View detailed calendar here.](#)

Upcoming Service

Sunday Service, October 19
10:00 am

Living Our Faith: Compassion In Action.

Reverend Margo Rinehart, Cedars Minister
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate
Liz Motter, Worship Associate

Historically, Unitarian Universalists and Cedars UU Church have been passionate about issues of Social Justice.

Join the members of the Social Action Committee to hear each individual share their passion for their "branch" of Social Action focus for this church year. We will break into small groups by topic and have meaningful discussions during this service.

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.

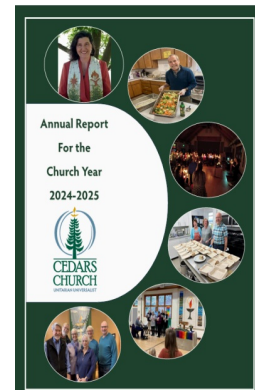


News and Announcements

Cedars 2024-2025 Annual Report

At the conclusion of each fiscal year, the Cedars Board of Trustees, with input from each of our various committee leaders, prepares an annual report describing what our Cedars community has been engaged in doing over the course of the past year, including a financial summary. The annual report for the 2024-2025 year is now complete and you are encouraged to take a look at it [HERE](#). Thanks to everyone who contributed to the assembly of the report and to everyone who has contributed their time, talents, and treasure to helping our Cedars community thrive!

- Your Cedars Board of Trustees



Cedars In-Gathering New Members!

On September 21, we welcomed our newest members to Cedars in our In-Gathering Ceremony! You can learn more about our new members by clicking on their names to read their bios below...

Naomi Gary
Molly Norris & Nia
Bryce Bennett
Deb Allen
Dave and Nancy Coursen
Liz and Marty Springer
David Thomas



KIAC Gala- Sold Out!

On **October 23**, Kitsap Immigration Assistance Center will gather at Kiana Lounge for an evening

dedicated to community, rights, and belonging. We are honored to join in celebration and solidarity as we raise support for KIAC's mission. This event is sponsored by the Cedars Social Action Committee.



Cedars Men's Group

The **Cedars Men's Group** will meet in person at **3:00 pm on September 9** at the Cedars Center to welcome any men who would like to consider joining. We meet once a month on the second Tuesday of each month.



Cedars T-Shirts Are Here!

We have Cedars T-shirts available for purchase! Each shirt is \$20 and made from organic cotton. Contact the office at Office@cedarsuuchurch.org to get yours!



Thank Our Representatives for Protecting Our Vote

Each week, there will be a different card at the back of the service for people to sign to thank our representatives for protecting our vote. Please sign. Our goal is to encourage our representatives who are on the front line of this issue. So far, we have sent cards to Senators Cantwell and Murray and Representative Nance and Simmons. In the coming weeks, we will also include Senator Hanson. For more information, contact Sandy Spears.



Cedars Childcare Volunteer Opportunity:

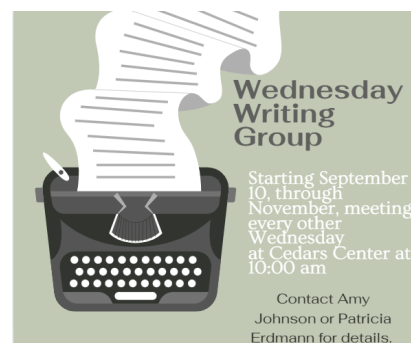
We are currently seeking members who would like to assist with Childcare on October 19. If you are interested in helping us, please email the Office Administrator at Office@cedarsuuchurch.org for more information.



Wednesday Writing Group

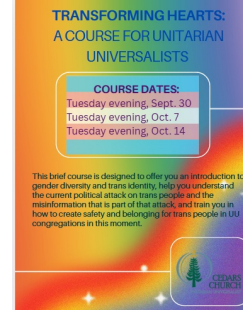
Inspired by Suleika Jaouad's *The Book of Alchemy*, we are interested in developing our writing practice by making journaling an everyday routine in our lives. Care to join us?

We meet at the Cedars Center from 10 am to 11 am every other Wednesday, 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!



Spiritual Odyssey Potlucks

Our next Spiritual Odyssey Potluck will be held on **October 25, from 12:00 - 2:00 pm**, where **Liz Motter** will share her Spiritual Journey with us! These will continue to be offered on the last Saturday of each month.

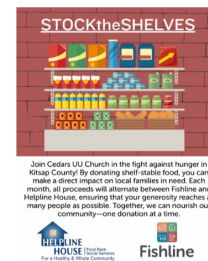


CEDARS Presents: STOCKtheSHELVES!

This month our contributions will go to **Helpline House**. 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 **Helpline House for October: shelf-stable milk, masa/cornmeal, canned fruit, and toilet paper.**

Last month, we collected a total of 52 pounds of food and \$20 for Fishline! Way to go, everyone!

Any questions? Ask Nancy Dowey 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

No Kings Protest

No Kings Protest is happening on **October 18** at Gather at the Cedars office at **9:45** and we will walk over to Gideon Park on Grow Avenue for presentations. Where you can also be incorporated into the human banner if you wish. (They don't actually tell us what that is.) From Gideon Park we will walk to Winslow Way & Highway 305. Protest time is from 10am-noon, but gather at Cedars no later than 9:45 if you want to walk over together.

There have been some stated concerns regarding our government tracking protesters via the transmission signals from cell phones. If this is of concern to you, you may want to leave your phone at home or at least turned off.

A core principle behind all No Kings events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values and to act lawfully at these events.



Mortal-i-tea

Join Johanna Munson and members of the EdgeWalking Collective to enjoy robust, heartwarming, authentic and supportive conversations about our life and death journeys. You'll come away relieved (and maybe even a little excited!) to find that you can engage in these transformative discussions. Save your spot [HERE](#).



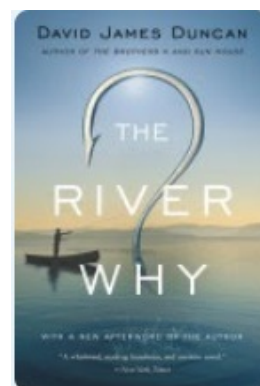
Ongoing Programs

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](#).

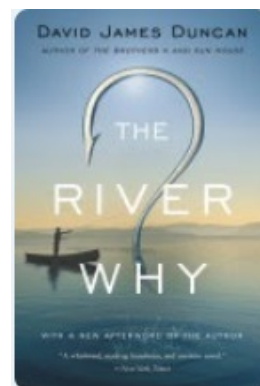


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You can find more information [HERE](#).



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, November 12.

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

Cedars on Social Media

Did you know that 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 office hours are 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

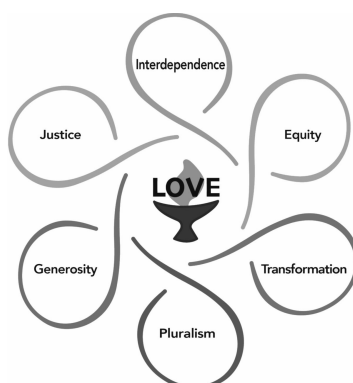
The deadline for submitting content for The Beacon is Mondays by the end of the day. If you would like to add an article, please send it to the Cedars office at Office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

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*



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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