

# 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 39 September 25, 2025

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## This Week At Cedars

**Sunday Service, September 28**  
**10:00 am**

**Beautiful Mistakes or Why waste a  
perfectly good mistake?**

**Rev. Barbara Cornell, Guest Minister**  
**Nancy Philip, Worship Associate**

The common understanding of mistakes is we'd rather not make them or that we are wrong or bad when we make them. How we respond after making a mistake is the story of our lives. Let's think about this together.

**Rev. Barbara Cornell** has been a hospital chaplain for 15 years. She and her husband Dane are proud parents of two adult children, Katie and Will.



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

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**Friday, September 26**

**FOCUUS (Walking Group)**  
**10:00 - 11:00 am**  
**Battle Point Park**  
Please see below for more details

**Monday, September 29**

**Reverence For Fire: Honoring Its Transformative Nature**  
**6:30 to 8:30 pm**  
St. Barnabas Episcopal Church  
Please see below for details

**Tuesday, September 30**

**Super Suppers**  
**5:00 - 6:00 pm**  
**Eagle Harbor Congregational Church**  
Please see below for details

**Transforming Hearts**  
**6:00 - 8:00 pm**  
**Cedars Center**  
Please see below for more details

[View detailed calendar here.](#)

## Upcoming Service

**Sunday Service, October 5**  
**10:00 am**

## **In So Many Words**

**Mary Lou Sanelli, Guest Speaker**  
**Johanna Munson, Worship Associate**

Sanelli, a proven speaker, will discuss her life and work as a writer. "Sanelli's writing is a fine mixture of literary nonfiction and memoir that often, and honestly, examines the act of writing itself." -The Stranger, Seattle.



**Mary Lou Sanelli** is the author of fourteen titles of nonfiction, fiction, memoir, poetry, and a children's title. Her newest, *In So Many Words*, has been nominated for a 2025 Pacific Northwest Book Award and a 2025 Washington State Book Award. She contributes to The Seattle Times, Weekend Edition, NPR, and she is a columnist for the Kitsap Sun & the Bainbridge Islander, & Art Access magazine. She works as a speaker, a columnist, and a master dance teacher. For more information visit [www.marylousanelli.com](http://www.marylousanelli.com).

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

## **News and Announcements**

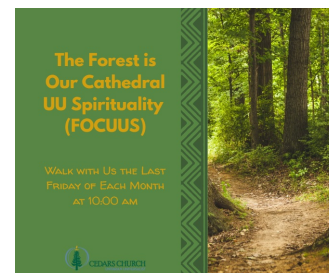
### **Thank Our Representatives for Protecting Our Vote**

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. In the coming weeks, we will also include Representative Simmons and Senator Hanson. For more information, contact Sandy Spears.



### **The Forest is Our Cathedral UU Spirituality (FOCUUS)**

Join us for a **FOCUUS** walk as we reflect on what moved us during the month, beginning **Friday, September 26**. We will walk in different places on Bainbridge Island and North Kitsap County on the last Friday of each month. Our first walk will be at **Battle Point Park at 10:00 am**. We will meet by the tennis courts. For more information, please contact Naomi Gary or Michelle Welsh at [Office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:Office@cedarsuuchurch.org)



### **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](mailto: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:**

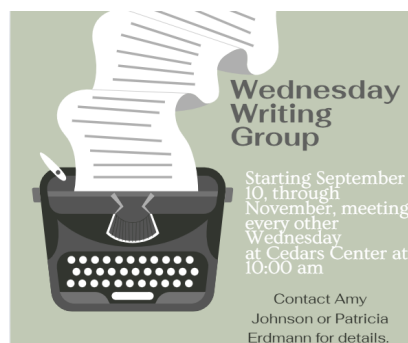
We are currently seeking members who would like to assist with Childcare on September 28, October 5, and 19. If you are interested in helping us, please email the Office Administrator at [Office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:Office@cedarsuuchurch.org) for more information.



## 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 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!



## 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

The **September** Spiritual Odyssey Potluck has been **cancelled**. 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!

**LAST CALL this Sunday for September donations to Fishline** 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. Most needed at Fishline for September: canned soups, vegetables, and fruits AND diapers (size 4 & 5).

Any questions? Ask Patricia Erdmann or Nancy Dowey.



## 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

### Reverence For Fire: Honoring Its Transformative Nature

This event is offered on **Monday, September 29, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm**, at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, by the Interfaith Climate Circle of the BINK- IFC. The elements on which we depend for life sustain us until they become out of balance, reaching extremes with destructive consequences. You can find more information about this event [HERE](#).



### Set Sail with StandUp for Kids Benefit Dinner and Auction

On **Saturday, October 4**, we will hold our first Dinner and Auction Gala at the Village Green Community Center in Kingston. Join us for an evening of good food, entertainment, and to learn more about the needs of the homeless in our community. You can find more information about this event, including tickets and how to donate [HERE](#). Contact Jeff Philip for any questions.



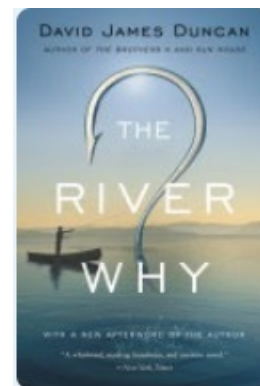
## Ongoing Programs

### 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](#).



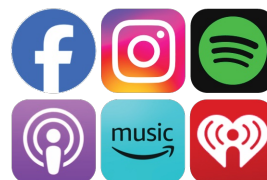
Cedars is also committed to leading the preparation and serving of a free meal to anyone in the community every other month through the Suquamish Community Kitchen. These meals require many helping hands to prepare, serve, and clean up. Please consider signing up [HERE](#) for one of the team member roles on the upcoming date, Wednesday, November 12.

For more information, contact **Mike Cox** at [socialaction@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:socialaction@cedarsuuchurch.org) or **Rod Kempkes** at [president@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:president@cedarsuuchurch.org).

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### 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](#).

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### 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.

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### 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](mailto:Office@cedarsuuchurch.org).

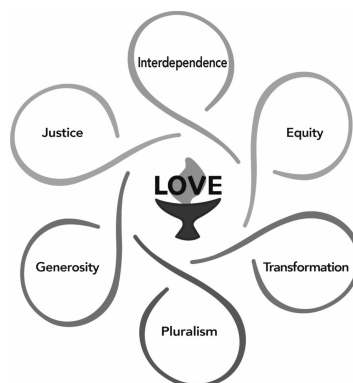
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### Cedars Facebook Conversations

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Office@cedarsuuchurch.org)

Would you like to subscribe to The Beacon? Email: [beacon@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:beacon@cedarsuuchurch.org)

Do you have an article, event, or announcement?

Send it to [Office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto: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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