

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 44 October 30, 2025

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This Week At Cedars

Sunday Service, November 2
10:00 am

Day of the Dead: A Service to Honor Our Departed Loved Ones

Reverend Margo Rinehart, Cedars Minister
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate
David Thomas, Worship Associate

At this time of year All Souls Day and the Day of the Dead provide ritual and ceremony that help us reflect on the gifts given to us by our loved ones who have passed on. Join us for this service of memory that includes building a communal altar to honor those whose inspirations and influence we still carry with us. You are encouraged to bring a photo of or object that reminds you of your loved one to place in the communal space.



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.

Sunday, November 2

FOCUUS (Walking Group)
After Service
Naomi's House
Please see below for more details

Monday, November 3

Women's Covenant Group
7:00 pm
Cedars Center
Please see below for more details

Wednesday, November 5

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

Thursday, November 6

Social Action Meeting
5:00 pm
Via Zoom
Please contact Office@cedarsuuchurch.org for link

[View detailed calendar here.](#)

Upcoming Service

Sunday Service, November 9
10:00 am

Compassion: Our Secret Superpower

Rev. Florence Caplow, Guest Minister
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate
Liz Motter, Worship Associate

Sometimes we think that compassion will make us weak, but all the world's religions honor compassion as one of the greatest human capacities. Rev. Florence Caplow will bring teachings from Buddhism, Unitarian Universalism, and science to inspire us to widen our hearts as a powerfully unshakable response in these cruel times.



Rev. Florence Caplow is a UU minister, author, and Zen teacher based in Port Angeles. To learn more about her, visit her website [HERE](#).

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

News and Announcements

Expressing Gratitude for Our Ancestors: Reverend Margo

Our November 2nd Sunday worship time is a special ceremony and celebration in remembrance of those who came before us. Whether you need the service to be more contemplative and ritualistic in concert with the Catholic All Souls Day or more akin to the joyous celebration of the Aztec and Mexican Day of the Dead celebrations, there will be a place in the service for you to explore and receive what you need.

As Unitarian Universalists, we do not believe that the souls of the departed need help in crossing from Purgatory into heaven, as was the original purpose of All Souls Day. Therefore, we may be more comfortable with the joyous and often humorous Day of the Dead which embraces death as a normal, integral part of everyday life. Families create altars (ofrendas), and adorn them with brightly colored flowers, photographs and the favorite foods of the deceased. The dead become guests of the living during this time of honoring and celebration. Feel free to bring a photo or personal item of your loved ones for our communal altar.

Our theme for the month of November is Nurturing Gratitude. Our November 2nd Sunday Service will provide you with a time to reflect on the gifts your loved ones gave you before they passed. Many of these relationships were complicated, and still are. But most also contain gifts - gifts we carry in who we are, what we value, how we act in the world, and the traditions we keep. We honor them by our thankfulness for what we have received. In the words of the Reverend Michelle Collins:

We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant, speak with voices shaped by languages we did not create, breathe free air that others died to protect. Every freedom we exercise, every opportunity we pursue, every moment of safety we enjoy carries the fingerprints of those who came before... Their dreams are in our daily choices, their unfinished work in our hands. Help us become ancestors, and future generations will thank us for loving this world forward with the same fierce hope that brought us here.

Turn Your Clocks Back!

Daylight Saving Time ends this Sunday, November 2, at 2:00 am. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour!



Starting Point class, November 8, 1:00 - 4:00 pm at the Cedars Office.

There are still a few spots left in the afternoon Saturday, November 8 Starting Point class! If you are someone who has been with Cedars for a few years or more, consider joining our newer Cedars folks in the Starting Point class. It is from 1:00-4:00 pm at the Cedars Center. The group will share different views of spirituality, how we make our diverse beliefs visible, and the Three Paths in Unitarian Universalism: listening to our deepest self, opening to life's gifts, and serving needs greater than our own. If you would like to attend, please contact Reverend Margo (minister@cedarsuuchurch.org) or leave a message at the Cedars office (206.780.0373).

Cedars Supports KIAC

Sixteen Cedars members and friends attended the Kitsap Immigration Assistance Center (KIAC) annual fundraising event at Kiana Lodge on October 23. Our Unitarian Universalist principles are closely aligned with KIAC's mission statement which is "Recognizing the inherent worth and dignity of all people, KIAC works for the well-being and empowerment of immigrants through education, advocacy and social justice". Thank you to all who attended for making this fundraising event a huge success!



For more pictures of this event, click [HERE](#).

Hold the Date!

On Sunday, **November 16**, our Cedars community will be gathering at **The Island School** at **10:00 am** for a potluck brunch! We'll be eating together, engaging in hearty conversation, and celebrating **Rev. Margo Rinehart's** affiliation with our Cedars community as our half-time contract minister.

Everyone is welcome, whether you've just recently become acquainted with us or have been a part of our community for a long time! **Children are especially welcome to this family-friendly event!**

Please bring something to share for brunch and we look forward to seeing you! (Please let us know if you'll be coming by clicking [HERE](#))



Social Action Committee Meeting

We hope you can join us on November 6th at 5:00 pm on Zoom for our monthly Social Action Committee meeting. Here's the tentative agenda; additions are welcome. Please RSVP so we know who to expect at the meeting. Send any questions to Patricia Erdmann or Office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Social Action Committee Service Highlights

Here are highlights from our recent Social Action Committee Service.

CLIMATE: The Island School is interested in installing solar panels on the school. We discussed the possibility of Cedars providing financial support to install the panels. We also discussed doing a tour of a wind farm near Ellensburg with those interested.

FOOD SECURITY: So many people suffer from food and other insecurities. Fishline and Helpline House are working to meet those needs. They both need volunteers and donations that Cedars can help with. The monthly community dinners are an interfaith effort to help provide food and support.

IMMIGRATION: My takeaway is that all these things are related and even overlap. Anti-Racism and Immigrant rights are human rights as are voting rights and having a future for our children. The right to food and shelter is so basic it should go without saying...and yet here we are!

VOTING RIGHTS: I'm excited that Cedars is standing up for voting rights. I'm inviting Cedars members to write letters encouraging potential voters and to send notes of appreciation to our representatives working hard to protect democracy. It's a small gesture, but one that can mean a lot — many officials say they rarely hear words of thanks.



Women's Covenant Group

Cedars has a Women's Covenant Group that meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. Our next meeting will be **Monday, November 3**. The group would welcome adding several new members. If you are new to Cedars, this is a great way to get acquainted and if you're a long-standing member, it's a way to deepen your friendships. If interested or want more information, contact **Fran Korten: Office@cedarsuuchurch.org**



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 Representatives Nance and Simmons. In the coming weeks, we will also include Senator Hanson. For more

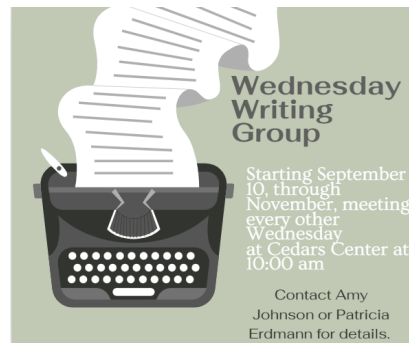


information, contact Sandy Spears.

Wednesday Writing Group

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

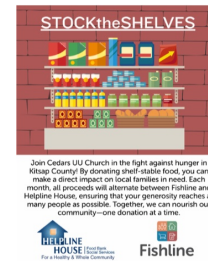
We meet at the Cedars Center from 10:00 am to 11:00 am every other Wednesday, through November. Our next meeting will be on November 5. Click [HERE](#) for more details and to sign up!



CEDARS Presents: STOCKtheSHELVES!

Wow!! October's food bank donations of 120 pounds were gratefully received by Helpline House.

We welcome both food donations and checks for **Fishline** during November. 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 this month: **canned soups, tomato sauce, breakfast cereal, jams/jelly, and wet wipes.**



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

Spirituality, Resistance, and Love

On **Saturday, November 8, from 12:00 – 2:30 pm**, Grace Episcopal Church will host a special program exploring the many paths to healing that our faiths can provide. The main speakers will represent those who attend churches and those who do not. Any form of spirituality is welcome. The main speakers will be:

Dee Eisenhower, Eagle Harbor Congregational
Philip Favero, Quaker Kitsap Meeting
Kathryn Lafond, Sufi
Eric Mason, Grace Episcopal

The speakers will be followed by music and poetry and 20-minute breakout groups to share our concerns and consider our options. At the end of the formal event, there will be a coffee hour where registrants can meet one another and confer with representatives from ten groups at tables to help clarify what they may be called to do.

You can find the event poster [HERE](#) and register on their website [HERE](#).

Spirituality,
Resistance
and Love



REGISTER HERE:



Fall Clothing Swap

Re-Fashion Bainbridge and Remake will have their **Fall Clothing Swap** on **Sunday, November 9, from 12:00 - 2:30 pm** at Filipino-American

Hall. Drop-off day will be Saturday, November 8, from 12:00 to 4:00 pm. You can find more information [HERE](#).



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. The next session will be offered on **November 11, at 6:30 pm**. Save your spot [HERE](#).



Ongoing Programs

Super Suppers

Cedars, in partnership with Kol Shalom, hosts Super Suppers on the last Tuesday of each month. We are looking for volunteers to participate in this meaningful community event. Our next meal is offered on **Tuesday, November 25**.

Each month, we come together to prepare and share a hearty meal for those in need. You can sign up to bring a dish, help with setup, serve meals, or assist with cleanup. When you sign up to provide a dish, you'll purchase the ingredients and prepare it on-site. We alternate between providing the main dish or sides with Kal Shalom each month.

If you are interested in signing up, you can do so [HERE](#). It's an easy way to connect, give back, and help nourish our community.

For more information, contact **Mike Cox** at socialaction@cedarsuuchurch.org



Suquamish Community Kitchen

Every other month, Cedars takes the lead in preparing and serving a free, nourishing meal for anyone in our community through the Suquamish Community Kitchen. These meals require many helping hands to cook, serve, and clean up. Each role plays a vital part in making the evening run smoothly.

We invite you to sign up [HERE](#) to be a part of the team. Your time and energy will make a meaningful difference.

For more information, contact **Rod Kempkes** at president@cedarsuuchurch.org.



FOCUUS (Walking Group)

Join us for this Day of the Dead-focused walk on **November 2**, which will start at Naomi Gary's house after Sunday Service. We will walk to Seabold Cemetery! The trip is about 1.5 miles round-trip. Contact Office@cedarsuuchurch.org for more details, or ask



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](#).

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.

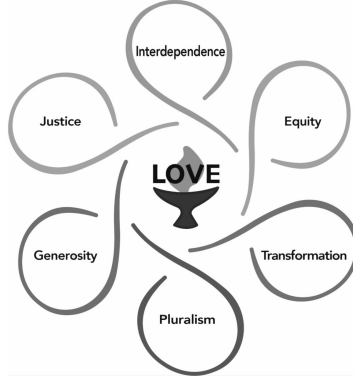
Beacon Article Deadline

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](#).





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](#).

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