

# 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 47 November 20, 2025

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## This Week At Cedars

**Sunday Service, November 23**  
**10:00 am**

### Still Thankful

**Rev. Barbara Gilday, Guest Minister**  
**Gregory Cook, Worship Associate**



It feels like the world, our world, is going to hell in a handbasket, as my grandmother would say. And it is, but the pendulum is starting to swing. In our lives, in our country, in our world, we can still lift up our heads and hearts, and reach out to be a clear light for others and Be Thankful – and mean it!

**Rev. Barbara Gilday** came to professional ministry in mid-life, but her life has been full of inquiry, diversity, social justice, connecting and sharing with others: Teaching in Ghana, hosting Japanese Exchange Programs, developing peer tutoring programs, hosting a Ukrainian refugee, to name a few. Currently, she is exploring in new and deeper ways, how we continue to find joy in, and give value to life as our capacities change. Barbara is the grateful member of a loving, blended family, and a new mom to a young rescue dog, Marley, who keeps her physically active.

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

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### Tuesday, November 25

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

**Annual (BINK) Community Interfaith Pre-Thanksgiving Service Celebrating Living Compassion**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Grace Episcopal Church**  
Please see below for more details

[View detailed calendar here.](#)

## Upcoming Service

**Sunday Service, November 30**  
**10:00 am**

### An Emerging Revolution

**Kathryn LaFond, Guest Speaker**  
**Nancy Philip, Worship Associate**

In order to create the vision of a more fair and equitable world we must first renew our sacred relationship with what has been invisible for far too

long. Releasing the ideology of human supremacy is a critical starting point. But can we embrace with humility what is needed next to heal? By seeing humanity through the lens of flora and fauna – perhaps?

**Kathryn Lafond**, Intuitive Energy Healer/Health Coach, Author, and Wise Woman Herbalist, trained in ancient wisdom traditions, is a life-long seeker who brings spiritual guidance from innumerable mentors. She is devoted to helping us remember the sacred in everyday life.

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



## News and Announcements

### Sunday at Cedars

This past Sunday, November 16, Cedars members and friends gathered to formally celebrate Rev. Margo's affiliation with us as our half-time contract minister. We presented her with a beautiful stole to show our gratitude for her joining with us to practice our Unitarian Universalist faith and values in our Bainbridge Island and North Kitsap communities. We also enjoyed a delicious potluck brunch and engaging conversations.

Later in the afternoon, Rev. Margo, wearing her new stole, joined several other clergy members from faith communities in Suquamish, Poulsbo, and Bainbridge at the Transgender Day of Remembrance at the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art. These faith leaders all spoke eloquently about how their faith traditions supported the inherent worth and dignity of all people, including transgender folks. Many Cedars members also attended and participated in reading the names and stories of trans people who have died in the past year by suicide or murder.



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### A Message from Michelle:

I wanted to share that I will be stepping down from my role as Office Administrator at the end of November. This was not an easy decision, but I was recently offered an excellent

opportunity that I feel called to pursue and could not pass up.

I am deeply grateful for the time I have spent serving this community. In my time here, I have been welcomed with kindness, support, and genuine connection. It has been a privilege to contribute to the work of Cedars.

Although I am transitioning out of this role, I fully plan to stay connected and remain a part of the Cedars community. This congregation is special, and I look forward to continuing relationships and participating in the life of Cedars in new ways.

Thank you for your understanding and for the many moments of grace and encouragement. I am looking forward to what lies ahead, for myself and for Cedars!

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## November Special Collection



**Sunday, November 23, Ursula Volwiler, the President of the League of Women Voters** will be speaking on activities they are involved in: policy support for traumatized children, abolishing the electoral college, prison voting, and more. This will be our Special Collection for this month.

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## Over 1,000 meals served!

On November 12th, our Cedars team served up another delicious meal through the Suquamish Community Kitchen program to over 70 people. Since Cedars began volunteering in this program in February 2024, we have prepared and served **a total of 1,002 meals!**



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## 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](mailto: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**. We recently included **John Cameron Peavy**, a campaign staff worker in Texas. In the coming weeks, we will also include **Senator Hanson**. For more information, please contact Sandy Spears.



## 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.**



Join Cedars UU Church in the fight against hunger in Kitsap County! By donating shelf-stable food, you can make a direct impact on local families in need. Each month, all proceeds will alternate between Helpline and Fishline House, ensuring that your generosity reaches as many people as possible. Together, we can nourish our community—one donation at a time.



**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

### From Curiosity to Connection: Honest Dialogue in a Time of Division



On **Saturday, November 22**, the City of Bainbridge Island and its Race Equity Advisory Committee are excited to host a *free*, one-day training, "From Curiosity to Connection: Honest Dialogue in a Time of Division." This two-part training with breakout groups and exercises is for people who want to develop their skills in confronting racism, classism, and bias and engage in honest and compassionate conversation in our community and beyond. It will be facilitated by Healing Equity United, a national equity and inclusion consultancy. You can find more information, including signup, [HERE](#).

### Annual (BINK) Community Interfaith Pre-Thanksgiving Service Celebrating Living Compassion

Join us on Tuesday, **November 25, at 7:00 PM** at **Grace Episcopal Church** for our cherished Community Interfaith Pre-Thanksgiving Service. This year's theme, *Living Compassion*, invites us to come together in gratitude, reflection, and unity.



Our guest speaker will be **Amara Oden from Suquamish UCC**, followed by prayers and readings from four new ministers in our community, interwoven with beautiful musical offerings.

The evening's offering will benefit the **ALIVE Program**, with special recognition to the YWCA and its CEO for their ongoing work supporting individuals and families in need. All are welcome! Come share in this inspiring tradition of community and compassion.

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



### 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.

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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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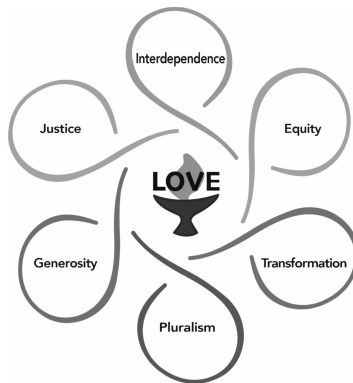
## Cedars Facebook Conversations

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](#).

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**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

### **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](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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