

# The Beacon

A weekly email newsletter from  
Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church  
Serving Bainbridge Island and Northern Kitsap County



Volume 17 Issue 1 January 1, 2026

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## This Week At Cedars

**Sunday Service,  
January 4  
10:00 am  
The Island School**

### **The Road Not Taken**

**Rev. Bruce Bode  
Johanna Munson, Worship  
Associate**

As we embark upon 2026, we will explore how to step into the new year through Robert Frost's familiar poem "The Road Not Taken," which – hint, hint! – is not titled "The Road Less Traveled By."



**Bruce A. Bode** is Minister Emeritus at the Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (QUUF) in Port Townsend, Washington, from which he retired in 2018 as the Senior Minister after serving the congregation for fourteen years (2004-2018). Before coming to Port Townsend, Rev. Bode was the Interim Minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston, Texas (2002-2004) and the Hope Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma (2001-2002). Prior to that, he served for twenty-two years (1978-2001) as an Associate Minister at the Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, a large, independent, religiously liberal congregation.

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

## Upcoming Services

**Sunday, January 11  
10:00 am  
The Island School**

**Rev. Jennifer Alviar, Guest Minister  
Liz Motter, Worship Associate**

Rev Jennifer Alviar is a Unitarian Universalist minister who designs rituals for healing and renewal in sacred and civic spaces. Her calling is to bring more intentionality to daily life by uplifting the simple, ordinary moments in the natural world with an eye toward beauty, wonder and awe.

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



## News and Announcements

**New Year, New UU!**

**Thursday, January 1**

**Noon - 2:00pm**  
**Cedars Center**

Come gather with your Cedars friends or friends to be on New Year's Day. Cedars is hosting a potluck, predictions and partaking at the **Cedars Office**. We will enjoy good food, fellowship and make predictions for the New Year.



RSVP not required, but appreciated. **RSVP to Reverend Margo** at [minister@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:minister@cedarsuuchurch.org).

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**Spiritual Odyssey Potluck**

**Saturday, January 10**  
**Noon - 2:00pm**  
**Cedars Center**

We invite you to gather for a potluck lunch and discussion with friends or members of Cedars who have agreed to share stories of their personal spiritual journeys. **Nancy Philip** will be our presenter this month.



These presentations are informal and can lead to deeper understanding of each other as we discuss where we have come from, as well as what we seek (or perhaps have found) here at Cedars. Please contact **Johanna Munson** ([johanna.munson7@gmail.com](mailto:johanna.munson7@gmail.com)) to indicate your interest in presenting your own spiritual odyssey.

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**Board News**

The **Mid-Year Congregational Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, January 18, 2026** after the service in Webster Hall. Please hold the date. At the meeting, the Board and program committees will provide updates to the congregation.



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**Community Cultural Event:**

**Weekends, January 9-18**  
**7:00 - 10:00pm**  
**Bainbridge High School Theater**

**Bryce Bennet** invites you to journey "Into the Woods" this winter with Ovation! Performing Arts Northwest! A series of performances begin with a **pay-what-you-can preview on Thursday, January 8**.



Tickets may be purchased by going [HERE](#) or to <https://www.ovationmtb.com/into-the-woods-2026-tickets>

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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. Please contact the office at [office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) to get yours!



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## 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**.



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## Interfaith Advocacy Day 2026 February 12, 2026 in Olympia

Please join the **Faith Action Network ( FAN )** to bring the voices of compassion and justice to our elected leaders. Learn more about the issues and legislation on FAN's 2026 Legislative Agenda. Meet with advocates from your district to prepare for your legislative visits.



Due to the generosity of our donors, there is no cost this year to participate in FAN's Interfaith Advocacy Day. More information of this event can be found using this link [Faith Action Network](#)

Opportunities to meet with your legislator or their legislative assistant if you register by **January 29** are available. FAN staff and our Legislative District Leads will set up an appointment for you and others from your district. Lunch will be provided. The **Cedars Social Action Committee ( SAC )** is promoting this event and several of us plan to go!

Please look for **Naomi Gary** at the Info Table on Sundays for more information or email SAC at [socialaction@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:socialaction@cedarsuuchurch.org).

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## CEDARS Presents: STOCKtheSHELVES!

Our local food banks continue to be serving more and more people. In January we are collecting shelf-stable food items for **Helpline House** and also accepting cash or checks. Thanks for your ongoing support!

Please contact **Nancy Dowey** or **Patricia Erdmann** with any questions.



Join Cedars UU Church in the fight against hunger in our community by donating non-perishable food that can make a direct impact on local families in need. Each month, all proceeds will alternate between **Helpline** and **Fishline** to help them purchase the food that reaches as many people as possible. Together, we can nourish our community—one donation at a time.



Fishline

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## 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.



## Ongoing Programs

### Cedars Book Club

Our next book to be discussed via Zoom, on **Wednesday, January 14, at 1:30 pm**, will be **The God Delusion** Paperback – by Richard Dawkins (Author)

A preeminent scientist -- and the world's most prominent atheist -- asserts the irrationality of belief in God and the grievous harm religion has inflicted on society, from the Crusades to 9/11.

You can find more information [HERE](#). Please contact Herb Hethcote with any questions.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

The **GOD** Delusion

Richard Dawkins

### Super Suppers Volunteers: Super Appreciated!

We have a great team serving Super Suppers each month to an appreciative group of Islanders. For many years, we have teamed up with Kol Shalom to provide this much needed service, the last Tuesday of the month, at Eagle Harbor Congregational Church in Winslow. However, we need more volunteers!!

\* to bring side dishes and help with set-up, serving, and cleanup

\* or help warm up the premade main dish, set up, and serve.

We provide side dishes or prepare the main dishes on alternating months.

You can sign up [HERE](#) for one or more slots, whatever works for you, and your help will be **SUPER APPRECIATED!** Our next opportunity is **January 27**.

For more information, please 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, please 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](#).

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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).

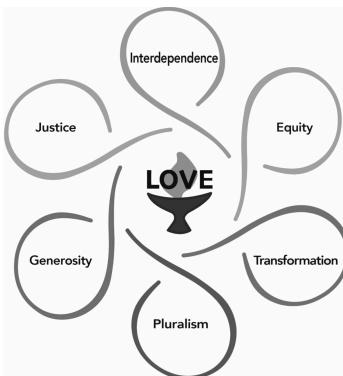
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## Cedars Facebook Conversations

If you're on Facebook, there is a 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*



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### Print the Beacon Newsletter

The Beacon is available to download and print each week [HERE](#) and by going to the Cedars website at [www.cedarsuuchurch.org](http://www.cedarsuuchurch.org) under News.

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### 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](#).

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### 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  
284 Madrona Way, NE #128  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110  
(206) 780-0373  
Minister@cedarsuuchurch.org

**Cedars Office**

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm in 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 \(website\)](#)



Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church | 284 Madrona Way NE, #128 | Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 US

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