

The Beacon

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



Volume 17 Issue January 8, 2026

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This Week At Cedars

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

The Gifts of Ritual & Renewal

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



How do we hold the bittersweetness of life in all its beauty and pain? "Days of honey, days of onion," as an Arabic proverb puts it. Come join us as we explore the spiritual practice of ritual and renewal as a healing balm in troubled times.

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.

Upcoming Services

**Sunday, January 18
10:00 am
The Island School**

**Rev. Margo Rinehart, Minister
David Thomas, Worship Associate**

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.



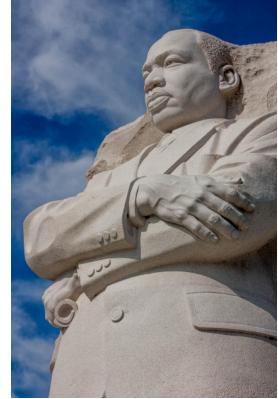
Childcare will be offered for this Service. Click [HERE](#) for details.

A Message from Reverend Margo

Practicing Resistance

On January 19, we will be celebrating the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Not only him but the thousands of unnamed people who dedicated themselves to the work of resisting racial hatred and corrupt power structures. Acknowledging those who fought with peaceful actions to make unjust and inhumane conditions known, and for all voices to be heard. For those who put their bodies and lives on the line so that all could be free.

As Unitarian Universalists, we know that every person is worthy of love. We are frustrated that many of our politicians place power and money as the goal while ignoring the value inherent in all people. The Unitarian Universalist Association and many members in our congregations have engaged in political actions. Reverend Andrew Weber says, "We do not pray for miracles because we are the miracles. We are the force of the divine in the world; we are the holy wind of change promoting more love and more justice." Instead of praying for miracles, we should pray that our words and actions take root and flight. May all our work be grounded in and strengthened by our congregational community and the relationships we build outside our walls.



We have another year of practicing resistance in front of us. Let some of our actions include speaking the truth, caring about the plight of others, listening deeply to their stories and amplifying what we hear by telling those stories in places where they can make an impact. In 2026, let our faith and our congregation be a place where we create belonging for everyone. ~ Rev. Margo

A Prayer for Practicing Resistance

Spirit of Connections and Love, bless the many ways we resist. Those who march and organize, those who cook, donate, and write. Those who tend to the weary, who pray, or hold vigil, those who say, "Rest now. I'll take this shift."

Let this wide circle honor every offering, visible or unseen. May we release the myths that define resistance in certain ways and remember instead the truth of shared power. May this be our prayer: to sustain one another's courage until quiet faith and public fire become one movement of love. ~ Michelle Collins

News and Announcements

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 offered 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) to indicate your interest in presenting your own spiritual odyssey.

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.



Community Events

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.

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

There are only 250 available spots to meet with your legislator or their legislative assistant, and they may fill up early. **Registration can be found [HERE](#) and closes on Thursday, January 29.**

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.

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>

Indivisible Bainbridge Flashlight Vigil

Saturday, January 10

5:00 - 6:30pm

Waypoint Park

A community gathering to honor the grief and trauma experienced by so many in the past year, and to come together to build a better future.

Join the Procession

Many will be coming from Indivisible's monthly community meeting at Eagle Harbor Church (3-5p), and walking or driving down Winslow Way to the event at Waypoint Park. Aim to **start the procession at 4:40pm**

Indivisible Bainbridge is committed to nonviolence.

Keep everyone safe Battery-powered lights only (no fire) Please stay on sidewalks

MLK Celebration 2026

Sunday, January 18

12:30 - 5:00pm

Frank Buxton Auditorium

The Cedars Social Action Committee encourages you to register for this free MLK Day event at the Frank Buxton Auditorium inside the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art! Join us on **Saturday, January 18** to help continue building a just and inclusive beloved community.



More information can be found [HERE](#). Please contact **Naomi Gary** with any questions.

Ongoing Programs

Social Action Committee

Our next Social Action Committee meeting is scheduled via Zoom, on **Thursday, January 8, at 5pm - 6pm**. Link to join can be found [HERE](#).

The Social Action Committee is responsible for programs and activities suggested by the mission statement “Serve Justice with Compassion,” and oriented primarily toward community and secular dimensions of congregational life.

You can find more information [HERE](#). Please contact **Michael Cox** with any questions.

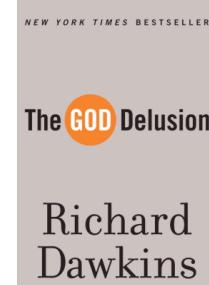


Cedars Book Club

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.



Cedars Men's Group

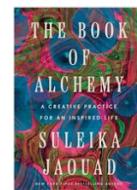
The Cedars Men's Group will meet in person at **3:00pm on January 13** at the **Cedars Center** to welcome any men who would like to consider joining. We meet once a month on the second Tuesday of each month.



Journaling Group

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

We next meet at the **Cedars Center** on **January 15** from **12:30 to 3:30pm**.



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**.

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.



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](#).

Thank Our Representatives for Protecting Our Vote

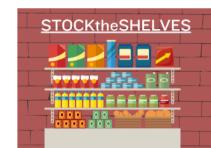
Each week, there will be a different card at the back of the service for people to sign to thank our representatives for protecting our vote. Please sign. Our goal is to encourage our representatives who are on the front line of this issue. So far, we have sent cards to Senators **Cantwell** and **Murray** 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!

Our local food banks continue to serve 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 Kitsap County! By donating shelf-stable food, you can make a direct impact on local families in need. Each donation will be distributed to Cedars Church and Helpline House, ensuring that your generosity reaches as many people as possible. Together, we can nourish our community—one donation at a time.

HELPLINE HOUSE Food Bank for a Healthy & Stable Community

Fishline

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 to get yours!



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.



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](#).

Beacon Article Deadline

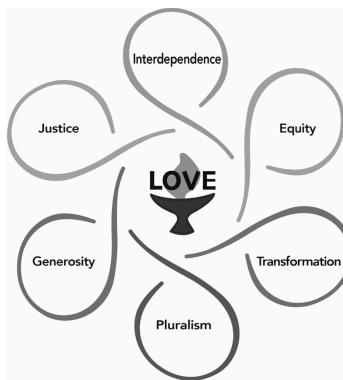
The deadline for submitting content for The Beacon is Mondays by the end of the day. If you would like to add an article, please send it to the Cedars office at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Cedars Facebook Conversations

If you're on Facebook, there is a 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](#)

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
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

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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