

The Beacon

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



CEDARS CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 17 Issue 9 February 26, 2026

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This Week At Cedars

Sunday Service, March 1
10:00 am
The Island School

The Language of the Roots

Rev. Tessie Mandeville, Carrie Koehnline
and Judith Kaftan, Guest Speakers

Su Livingston, Guest Musician
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

Our speakers will share a recently rediscovered story, "Grandmother Waits." They'll reflect, as the elders they are now, on its messages of autonomy, depth, creativity, and what it takes to be a healthy, diverse community. Led by Carrie and Judith, who co-wrote the story more than 30 years ago, and woven together with poetry and songs by Tessie, this promises to be an engaging and wonderful service.

Rev. Tessie Mandeville is an affiliated minister at Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship (BUF), a hospital chaplain (ret.), and an Interfaith spiritual director, who lives in Bellingham with her wife, Lisa.

Carrie Koehnline is a journal therapist, artist, writer, and frequent worship leader at BUF who lives in Bellingham with her wife, Dominique.

Judith Kaftan is a longtime psychotherapist, artist, and writer who has recently retired. She lives in Seattle along with her wife, Marra.

Su Livingston is a former educator, worship celebrant at BUF, and a lifelong musician who lives in Bellingham with her husband, John.

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



Sunday, March 1

Explore the Major Religions of the World
11:30 am - 1:00 pm (right after Service)
The Island School (bring a bag lunch)

Wednesday, March 4

Budget Leadership Team
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Cedars Center

Adult Programs
5:00 am - 6:00 pm
Cedars Center

Thursday, March 5

Social Action Committee
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
via Zoom

Please see below for more details and take a look at the Cedars calendar [HERE](#).

Upcoming Services

Sunday Service, March 8
10:00 am
The Island School

**How Artificial Intelligence Shapes
Our World**

Nate Kremer-Herman, Guest Speaker
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate



Artificial intelligence is the latest in a long line of tools that shape how we relate to our world and to each other. As we grapple with how AI is changing us, it is important to ground ourselves in our uniquely human experiences to cultivate closer communities and a healthier planet.

Nate Kremer-Herman teaches computer science at Seattle University. His research work engages with the Artificial Intelligence Alignment Problem to better ensure that AI adheres to our shared social and moral principles. Unsurprisingly, Nate's favorite class to teach is an ethics course for computer science students.

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

A Message from Reverend Margo

When we come across unexpected difficulties, they bump us, and we blame the person or the situation.

Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh tells us the truth lies in the reality that it is not the bump that potentially creates the problem, but rather what is in the cup we carry. When bumped, the cup's contents spill out. So, you can **choose wisely when filling your cup**.

Choose gratitude, compassion, and kindness, not anger, harsh words, and judgment.



Our Voices, Our Values: A Heartfelt Update from Advocacy Day in Olympia

Last week, six of our very own **Cedars UU Church** members traveled to **Olympia**, carrying our shared values of compassion and justice into the heart of our state's capitol. They joined a vibrant community of **275 voices of faith and conscience**, all standing together with a single, powerful purpose: to **speak truth to power**.

Rev. Margo shared that it was *truly uplifting to be surrounded by so many people who share our deep commitment to justice. A highlight of the trip was the time we spent speaking directly*

with **Rep. Drew Hansen, Rep. Greg Nance, and the aide for Rep. Terra Simmons**. These conversations were both *valuable and encouraging*, reminding us that our local representatives are listening.

By the end of the day, *we were all definitely tired! But as we headed home, we knew it was well worth every bit of time and effort. We felt so proud to stand there as representatives of Cedars, serving as steady voices for the issues that touch our hearts most: a moral budget, environmental justice, immigrant rights, criminal justice reform, housing, and indigenous rights.*

This wonderful day was made possible by the **Faith Action Network (FAN)**, and it was a beautiful reminder of how we put our **Unitarian Universalist** faith into tangible action.

For more information, email socialaction@cedarsuuchurch.org and sign up for **FAN's E-News & Advocacy Alerts**.

News and Announcements

Cedars Ride Matching Survey

Sharing a ride with someone to our services on Sunday mornings at The Island School is a great way for us to help our neighbors, build community, and take care of the earth at the same time!



Please take a few seconds to answer two simple questions in the survey linked below, and our Cedars Care Team will try to match up folks who are willing to drive and folks who would appreciate a ride on Sunday mornings and live in the same area.

Once a potential match(es) has been identified and communicated to the drivers and those wanting rides, they will be responsible for working out the details with each other. You can also talk to **Susan Shaffer** about this effort to match up potential drivers and riders.

Link to [Survey](#).

New Open Office Hours for Cedars Center Monday - Thursday, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

The Cedars Center will have open office hours **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from noon -2pm**. We hope you will be able to come in and collaborate to make our Cedars community thrive.



You can find a link to the map on the website [HERE](#).

Circle Suppers Are Returning to Cedars

Circle Suppers are a relaxed and welcoming way for our Cedars community to deepen connections. These are small gatherings of 6 to 10 people, typically hosted at a member's home (or at the Cedars office), where the table host provides the dining space and the main dish. Guests are asked to bring a side, an appetizer, a dessert, or beverages—and good conversation always follows.



We're launching our first Circle Supper night of 2026 on **Saturday, April 11**, and we're looking for 6–8 table hosts to make it possible. If you're willing to host, please let us know:

- How many guests can you comfortably seat
- Whether your table can accommodate children
- If you would prefer to use the Cedars Office Conference Room

Once guests sign up, you'll receive the list of those assigned to your table.

Please note: we will be on daylight savings time, and although the days will be longer, some driving after dark will be necessary.

We hope you'll consider hosting and helping us create another evening of community and connection. Please get in touch with LT at office@cedarsuuchurch.com if interested and for more information.

Office Space Available at Cedars Center

Members and Friends of Cedars: Do you know anyone looking to **sublet work/office space**? Maybe for a remote job? Please let them know about this opportunity!



A bright, furnished **8'x15'** office available inside a quiet, peaceful professional suite just two blocks from the local movie theater. Includes access to a shared conference room, small kitchen, and bathroom. Features exterior windows, a comfortable two-seat couch, a corner desk, and bookshelves—move-in ready and perfect for consultants and remote workers. \$700 a month.

Please contact Sandy Spears if interested: sandy.pears@att.net

Explore the Major Religions of the World

Sundays, March 1, March 15, March 29
11:30 am–1:00 pm (right after Service)
The Island School (bring a bag lunch)



Join presenters **Alan Miller** and **David Thomas** as we explore five of the world's great religious traditions through both history and lived experience. Alan is a retired professor of comparative religion, and David is a retired epidemiologist who has traveled the world and experienced many cultures and religious traditions. Together we'll look at:

- Judaism is held on February 1. Reading available [HERE](#)
- Christianity is held on February 15. Reading available [HERE](#).
- Islam is held on March 1. Reading available [HERE](#).
- Hinduism
- Buddhism

Each session focuses on one tradition and blends:

- ✦ Short readings (about 10 pages)
- ✦ Helpful historical and textual insights (Alan)
- ✦ Observations from world travel (David)
- ✦ Conversation and Q&A

Whether you're seeking a deeper understanding of global faiths, curious about how religion shapes culture, or enjoy learning in community, this course offers a thoughtful and engaging doorway in. All are welcome — no prior knowledge required!

Please feel free to sign up by clicking [HERE](#).

Community Events

March Special Collection: Kids in Concert



Kids In Concert is a free after-school music and youth development program in Kitsap County, Washington. Please help kids develop leadership, resilience, confidence, and musical ability.

For more information, use this link [HERE](#) to their website or contact Naomi Gary at office@cedarsuuchurch.com

**BINK Spring Music Festival:
We Are All Family
Sunday, March 15
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
St. Cecilia's Catholic Parish**

Spring is a joyous time on Bainbridge Island. People start to come out of their winter hibernation, and the earth fights off the gray sky with bursts of brightly colored flowers. It is a perfect time to sing and listen to beautiful music in a worshipful setting.

This **Bainbridge Island/North Kitsap Interfaith Council** concert is free, family-friendly, typically an hour long, and features entries from our council member organizations. There is also a unifying choir number, as well as opportunities for the audience to sing and dance.



Please get in touch with Kathryn Lafond with any questions: kelifond@gmail.com

Ongoing Programs

Cedars Book Club

**(ongoing on the third Wednesday of each month)
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
via Zoom**

Wednesday, March 18

**Who's in Charge, Free Will & the Science of the Brain, by M
S Gazzaniga, August 24, 2012**



Drawing on his own research and cognitive neuroscience findings, Gazzaniga offers a provocative challenge to the idea that physical processes entirely determine our lives. 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](#).

Wednesday, April 15

**The Living Universe Story, A Participatory Integral
Spirit Cosmology for an Ecological Civilization by
David Korten**



This 23-pg paper examines the big ideas behind an **Ecological Civilization**, blending wisdom from science and spiritual traditions worldwide. It helps us see the universe as a living, changing place, and shows how people fit into this ongoing story. You can find more information [HERE](#).

Please get in touch with Herb Hethcote with any questions: Office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Cedars Women's Covenant Group

**(ongoing on the second Monday of each month)
Monday, March 9
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Fieldstone Retirement Community**



The Cedars Women's Covenant Group would welcome adding several new members committed to sharing experiences and feelings on a specific topic in a confidential setting. 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 Men's Group
(ongoing on the second Tuesday of each month)
Tuesday, March 10
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Cedars Center



The Cedars Men's Group welcomes any men who would like to consider joining to share experiences and feelings on a specific topic in a confidential setting. If interested or want more information, contact **Herb Hethcote** or **Ed Clemens**. Office@cedarsuuchurch.org

CEDARS Presents: YOU CAN!

Helpline House received almost **700,000 lbs** of food donations in 2025. Serving an average of about **325 shoppers every week**. As far as outstanding needs, they might be launching a hygiene program in June and they can always use canned goods and shelf stable items.



Please get in touch with **Nancy Dowey** or **Patricia Erdmann** with any questions.

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 on 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 **March 31**.

For more information, please get in touch with 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 join the team. Your time and energy will make a meaningful difference.

For more information, please get in touch with 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, a different card will be 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 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!



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 Monday 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

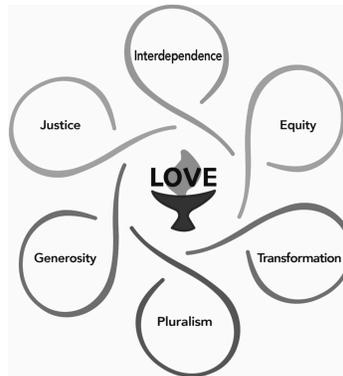
If you're on Facebook, there is a Facebook group called Cedars UU Church Community Conversations for members and friends to share events, fun stories, etc. Let's keep the coffee hour going all week long! Join the group [HERE](#).

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 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 [HERE](#) and by going to the Cedars website at www.cedarsuuchurch.org under News.

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

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