

The Beacon

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



Volume 17 Issue 6 February 5, 2026

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This Week At Cedars

Sunday Service, February 8

10:00 am

The Island School

Let's Dream!: Brunch & Banter

- Where is Cedars headed?
- What kind of community should we become?
- What would make us excited to invest in that future?



The **Cedars Board of Trustees** will be hosting a short and lively visioning session to gather ideas about how Cedars can better serve families, young adults, and the wider community — and what we as a congregation would like to resource over the next year as we plan for our annual stewardship campaign later this spring. Join us and help imagine what's possible.

This service will be in our Brunch & Banter format, so please bring something "brunchy" to share along with your ideas!

Childcare will not be offered for this Service. Children are welcome to enjoy the brunch with their parents and some activities will be made available for little ones.

Thursday, February 5

TXUUJM Thursday Night Action Hour
5:00 pm- 6:00 pm
via Zoom

Social Justice Committee
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
via Zoom

Friday, February 6

UU Justice NC Friday Action Hour
8:00 am - 9:00 pm
via Zoom

Web of Life Gathering
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Bethany Lutheran Church

Saturday, February 7

Spiritual Odyssey Potluck
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Cedars Center

Monday, February 9

Women's Covenant Group

Tuesday, February 10

Men's Group
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Cedar Center

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

Upcoming Services

Sunday Service, February 15

10:00 am

The Island School

The Faiths of Our Founding Fathers

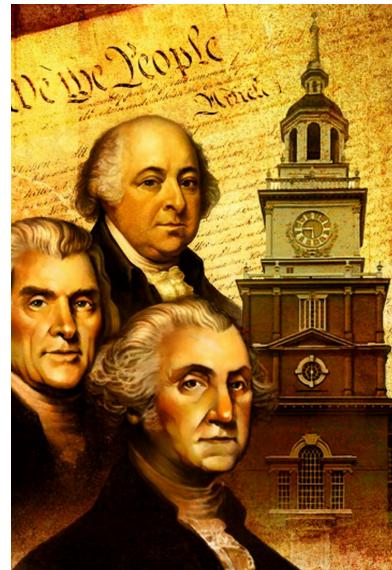
Rev. Margo Reinhart, Minister

Liz Motter, Worship Associate

On this Presidents' Day weekend, we will explore the commitment by many of our Founding Fathers to the separation of church and state and the imperative of protected religious expression. From atheism to theism, let freedom ring!

Reverend Margo Rinehart serves Cedars by 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



Unitarian Universalism Strongly Represented in Minneapolis

Since ICE Operation Metro Surge began in December, **Unitarian Universalists in Minneapolis** have been deeply engaged in the work of caring for their neighbors and speaking out against injustice. From joining others in witnessing the minutes and days after the murders of Renee Good and Alex Petti to coordinating rides to work and school and grocery deliveries for those afraid to go out, UUs are part of protest and resistance. UU clergy represented almost one-third of the faith leaders involved in the MARCH protest.

UU minister and Vice President for Programs & Ministries, Ashley Horan, lives in Minneapolis and informs us of the powerful witness by UUs and others, "Their witness, courageous actions, and spiritual care were a blessing that fortified my city and ignited a groundswell of hope and action across the country. Ripples are still spreading out...Without the skill, strategy, and infrastructure of **Unitarian Universalism's Side with Love and the UUA**, the MARCH clergy call could not have happened."

Horan wants all Unitarian Universalists to know that **the MARCH protests could not have occurred with such speed and organization without the UUA and Side With Love**. Horan states, "UUs across the country have provided much-needed prophetic leadership to all people of goodwill over the past several weeks, and the UUA and Side With Love have been an integral component to turning ideas into action...In just six days, here are just a few of the indispensable things Side with Love and the UUA

offered:

- Secure registration systems, Zoom hosting, and back-end support to two mass "Know Before You Go" webinars for all denominations,
- Created and served as admins to 30+ secure Signal channels for organizers and participants,
- Vetted registrants to verify identities and legitimacy,
- Created the Solidarity with Minnesota resource guide,
- Led an in-person workshop for congregational organizing,
- Provided an in-person videographer, photographer, and reporter for independent coverage,
- Initiated quick planning of ICE Out! Action hours and phone banks."

Side With Love is funded through the Unitarian Universalist Association and by private contributions. We are likely to hear much more from **Side With Love** as they continue to be involved in providing national infrastructure for witness and protest. Be assured that if a Metro Surge operation should begin in the Seattle area, Side With Love will be here in partnership with us.

For more information, visit their website [HERE](#).

News and Announcements

Unitarian Universalist Association President Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt Arrested

Betancourt joined religious leaders near the Capitol grounds earlier in the day to advocate against the passage of the budget that funds the federal agency overseeing ICE and Customs and Border Patrol actions. The gathering comes after thousands of clergy and laypeople, including hundreds of UUs, arrived last week in Minneapolis for **The Day of Truth and Freedom**, a nonviolent moral action and march calling for the end of ICE operations in Minnesota, where multiple UU clergy were also arrested.



"There is no moral justification for voting for a budget that will put more resources toward the violation and dehumanization of our neighbors," Betancourt said earlier Thursday, according to a UUA statement. "As religious leaders, we have an ethical obligation to show up and say that this will not be done in our name." Read more at this link: [UUWorld • Staff Writer • 1/29/2026](#)

Breeze with Friends!

Saturday, February 22
11:30 am (right after Service)
The Island School stage



Breeze is the software program that Cedars uses to maintain our directory of members and friends and much more. If you'd like to learn the basics of how it works and how you can use it to stay connected with our Cedars community, the Cedars Membership Team will be giving a live demonstration of the Breeze program after the Sunday service on **February 22** on the stage at The Island School. Grab your coffee cup and join us!

NEW! Soul Matters Covenant Group at Cedars

Facilitated by Reverend Margo
Presented on Zoom
Date to be determined [HERE](#)

Covenant Groups offer the experience of discovery, solace, hope, and deep sharing through UU spiritual exploration and reflection in the supportive company of others.



The Soul Matters curriculum invites us to experience a theme each month. **Practicing Resistance** will be the theme for February. **Embodying Resilience** will be the next. As spiritual analysis without spiritual practice often leaves us unchanged, the exercises in each month's packet invite us to reflect on how the theme shows up in our daily lives.

Each person in the group will receive a monthly packet. Participants are invited to Select one of the 5-7 exercises and one of the dozen questions that speak about their life.

In our Zoom meetings, each session will include:

- Check-in
- Spiritual Exercises Reflection
- "You Question" Reflection
- Closing Words.

If you want to know more about the group before you sign up, contact **Reverend Margo** at minister@cedarsuuchurch.org.

For the first few sessions, the group will meet on Zoom once a month on Monday or Tuesday evenings. To determine what works best for their schedules, interested participants can choose from the available time slots at the link [HERE](#). As the days get longer, the group might elect to meet in person.

Educational Opportunity

Explore the Major Religions of the World

A Five-Session Course for Curious Minds

Sundays, Feb 1, Feb 15, Mar 1, Mar 15, Mar 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 held on Feb 1. Reading available [HERE](#)
- Christianity
- Islam
- 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

UU Solidarity Initiative ICE Out! Week of Action Decriminalization

In this time of moral crisis, our faith calls us to live our values through courageous and prophetic action. Join Unitarian Universalists across the country for a national Week of Action against the violent, immoral actions of ICE. The week will include a 40-hour phone call blitz to Congress, five straight days of virtual action hours led by UU State Action Networks, and the kick-off session of the UU Solidarity Initiative.



5:00 pm- 6:00 pm

The Texas UU Justice Ministry will continue to lead us in charge to close Dilley Detention Center in South Texas following their action at the facility last week.

We celebrate the safe return of 5-year old Liam Conejo Ramos, but continue to fight for the children & families calling for Dilley to "Libertad para los ninos" or "Free the children!" in the midst of horrific, inhumane conditions. Register [HERE](#).

Friday February 6
6:00 pm

UU Justice NC will close out our National Week of Action at our weekly Friday Action Hour! We will write letters to the editor demanding that ICE leave our communities and end their violent, immoral actions. Together, we can send a loud and clear moral message in Sunday papers in NC and across the country. Join us! Register [HERE](#).

We're not stopping this week!

ICE Out! Phone Call Blitz to Congress - extending to next week !

More information and to register can be found [HERE](#).

February Special Collection:
Faith Action Network



On **February 15**, the Social Action Committee chose to collect money for the **Faith Action Network** (FAN). The FAN is a multi-faith organization with thousands of people and over 160 faith communities across Washington State, partnering for the common good.



More information can be found [HERE](#).

If you would like to receive a tax deduction for your donation, please write a check payable to Cedars UU Church with FAN in the memo to place in the offering basket on February 15 or send it to the Cedars Church Office by February 22.

Cedars holds a Special Collection monthly for community outreach to educate our congregation about the work of various non-profit organizations that reflect our values, and to channel our generosity in support of them.

For more information, contact **Mike Cox** at 206-799-3725 or toxman57@gmail.com.

Honoring Air: Protecting the Breath of Life



Friday February 6
6:30 pm to 8:30pm
Bethany Lutheran Church
7968 Finch Road NE, Bainbridge Island

Gather in community with the **Bainbridge Island North Kitsap Interfaith Climate Circle** to explore our relationship with air, the sacredness of air, and to identify the actions we can take to restore air's purity.

For more information, send an email to climatecirclebinkfc@gmail.com or contact **Mike Cox** at toxman57@gmail.com

Who We Are:
History of the Suquamish Tribe

Saturday February 21
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Suquamish Museum

Free lecture with Tribal Elder and Storyteller **Barbara Lawrence**.

Seating is limited with **registration required** at (360)394-7105 or by email at museum@suquamish.nsn.us

More information can be found [HERE](#).



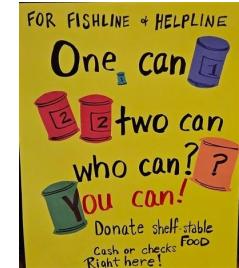
Ongoing Programs

CEDARS Presents: YOU CAN!

YOU CAN! Donate shelf-stable food, cash, or checks to Fishline and Helpline House every Sunday. Our local food banks continue to serve more and more people.

For instance, Fishline reported the impact your generosity helped make possible: "In 2025, Fishline saw a whopping **106,781 visits**- a powerful reminder of how many of our neighbors are turning to us during this surge in need. Your contribution ensures we can continue offering food, stability, and essential services to those who rely on us."

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



Cedars Women's Covenant Group

Cedars has a Women's Covenant Group that meets at the **Fieldstone Retirement Community** on the **second Monday of each month at 2 pm**. The next meeting is on **February 9**. 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 Men's Group

The Cedars Men's Group will meet in person on **February 10** at the **Cedars Center** to welcome any men who would like to consider joining. We meet on the **second Tuesday of each month at 3 pm**. If interested or want more information, contact **Herb Hethcote** or **Ed Clemens**.

Office@cedarsuuchurch.org



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.



Super Suppers!

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 **February 24**.

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

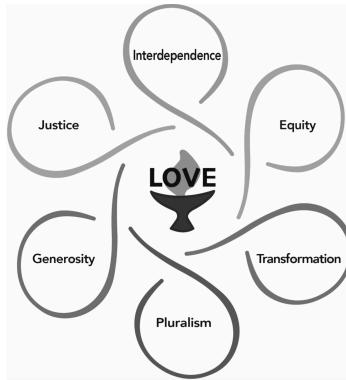
If you're on Facebook, there is a Facebook group called Cedars UU Church Community Conversations for members and friends to share events, fun stories, etc. Let's keep the coffee hour going all week long! Join the group [HERE](#).

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.

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: office@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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