

The Beacon

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



Volume 17 Issue 13 March 26, 2026

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This Week At Cedars

Sunday Service, March 29
10:00 am
The Island School

**Paying Attention: Finding Wisdom
Through Springtime Interfaith
Practices**

Rev. Margo Rinehart, Cedars Minister
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate



At this time of year, Lent, Ramadan, and Passover fill the spring days with opportunities for contemplation, meditation, and even prayer. What can we learn from the great religions about paying attention and bringing our emotional and spiritual growth into action for our communities and common humanity?

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.

Saturday, March 28

Bainbridge Island Says NO KINGS!
9:00 am - 11:00 am
Starting at Shepard Way & Grow Avenue to arrive at Hwy 305 & Winslow Way

Sunday, March 29

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

Bainbridge Island Environmental Conference: Rising Seas
12:30 pm - 4:00 pm
Islandwood's Bainbridge Island Campus

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

Upcoming Services

Sunday Service, April 5
10:00 am
The Island School

Easter Sunday: Lessons for Celebrating Paradise

Rev. Margo Rinehart, Cedars Minister

Liz Motter, Worship Associate

We will take a historical look at how the life and death of Jesus changed from celebrating the victory over death to a focus on suffering and sacrifice. This is a message for Atheists, Christians, and spiritual seekers of all kinds. Come and reclaim the Easter season as a time of joy.

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A Message from Reverend Margo

Love to Our Transgender Neighbors

March 31 is **International Transgender Visibility Day**.

We can honor this day by learning more about the pronouns used by transgender and nonbinary people. This can also be part of our **March theme of "Paying Attention."** I would like to see us deepen our awareness of what it means to use pronouns in our worship space and larger community. Because using the correct pronoun for a transgender person means affirming their inherent worth and dignity. Whereas **to not use the correct pronoun, to "misgender" them, is a hurtful wounding.**



In today's stressful world, it is essential to create spaces where **everyone feels seen, heard, and experiences a sense of belonging.** At Cedars, we try to provide that experience. For transgender and non-binary folks, pronouns are a fundamental aspect of identity, and respecting them is fundamental to promoting understanding and acceptance. This is especially important as trans and nonbinary folks are currently being persecuted for their very existence, and laws are being passed that strip them of basic human rights.

As you know, pronouns are words that replace nouns, which allow for a more fluid language. We've been using them for centuries, but something about that has changed in the past few years. You may have noticed that we use "they" as a pronoun more often now. Personal pronouns are no longer just "he" and "she." Pronouns for a single person are now "he," "she," "they," and "ze" – just to mention the most popular. For many people, pronouns align with their gender identity, making them an essential and integral part of self-expression. Currently, we are in a society where gender, not biological sex, is often categorized as female, male, or nonbinary.

By sharing our pronouns on our name tags and even in our conversations, we communicate that we want to be respectful and understanding of all who come through our doors, especially regarding their diverse gender expressions.

Pronoun sharing is becoming increasingly more common because 31% of Gen-Z identify as LGBTQ, and with the majority of those, 31% being gender non-binary.

There are consequences of our not paying attention to pronouns. Pronouns are as important as a name, and you wouldn't continue to call someone by something that isn't their name. Using a pronoun that does not match the person's identity is called "misgendering."

Misgendering can cause transgender people to feel small, erased, invisible, alone, and even unsafe. Misgendering results in marginalization and communicates that a person's identity is not seen as important. When correct names and pronouns are used in educational settings, statistics show this is correlated with a drop in suicide rates and an increase in feelings of belonging.

If you want to know about gender identity and how to use pronouns that feel new to your vocabulary, read the attached piece at this link: [Why Pronouns Matter by Reverend Mira Mickiewicz.](#)

Stewardship Update

Saturday, April 18
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
Prue's House in Grand Forest
Bainbridge Island



Our annual **Stewardship Campaign** will kick off in April. Please look for further announcements in the coming weeks about this special event to **pause and appreciate the strength, connection, and joy** our shared UU community brings to the world.

Enjoy light refreshments and time together in the beautiful **Prue's House** gathering space, located in the **Grand Forest Preserve** and accessed from Mandus Olson Road.

Please get in touch with **Rod Kempkes** at president@cedarsuuchurch.org for more information.

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](#).

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.

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.org 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.spears@att.net

Explore the Major Religions of the World

Sunday, 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 is held on March 15. Reading available [HERE](#)
- Buddhism is held on March 29. Reading available [HERE](#)

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

Indivisible Project:
Bainbridge Island Says NO KINGS!
Saturday, March 28
9:00 pm - 11:00 am
Starting at the Public Trail (Shepard Way & Grow Avenue) to arrive at Hwy 305 & Winslow Way



★We will WALK OUR TALK!★

Join a Strong & Peaceful Sidewalk Procession through Winslow! The event will run from 9 am -11 am, and will involve a procession through town towards the ferry intersection. The timing and destination of Bainbridge's event are intended to enable people to also attend the big event in Seattle if they so choose.

On **March 28**, rise, take to the streets, and say it loud: **NO THRONES, NO CROWNS, NO KINGS**. We're not watching history happen—we're making it. Come to the event and bring your friends, your signs/symbols of resistance, your determination, your commitment to non-violence, and your love of democracy and the promise of what our country could and should be.

Be loud, be joyful, and be utterly undeniable as an ever-growing resistance movement. A core principle behind all **No Kings** events is a commitment to **nonviolent action**. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values and to act lawfully at these events. Weapons of any kind, including those legally permitted, should not be brought to events.

For more information, use this link **HERE**, and please get in touch with **Mike Cox** at socialaction@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Bainbridge Island Environmental Conference: Rising Seas

Sunday, March 29
12:30 pm - 4:00 pm
Islandwood's Bainbridge Island Campus



Register **HERE**.

This year's conference will focus on the latest science behind **sea level rise in Puget Sound**, the real impacts already being felt on Bainbridge Island, and the tools, policies, and community actions that can help us adapt. Participants will engage in plenary talks, panel discussions, interactive breakout sessions, and hands-on activities to explore how sea level rise affects natural habitats, parks and recreation access, infrastructure, housing, public health, and long-term community resilience. The conference will also include optional field trips to see the impacts of sea level rise and adaptation strategies firsthand. Register **HERE**

The Bainbridge Island Environmental Conference is a joint project of **Sustainable Bainbridge, EcoAdapt, the Bainbridge Island Land Trust, IslandWood, and the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation**. This group sets the annual theme and shares responsibility for planning and coordinating the conference. They welcome your ideas for future environmental conference topics.

More information can be found **HERE**. Get in touch with **Mike Cox** with any questions: socialaction@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Ongoing Programs

Cedars Music Committee
(ongoing on the second Friday of each month)
Friday, April 10
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Cedars Center



The Cedars Music Committee welcomes anyone interested in joining to promote, advocate, nurture, and sustain music programs at Cedars. If interested or want more information, contact **Fran Korten** at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Cedars Women's Covenant Group
(ongoing on the second Monday of each month)
Monday, April 13
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** at office@cedarsuuchurch.org

Cedars Men's Group
(ongoing on the second Tuesday of each month)
Tuesday, April 14

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** at office@cedarsuuchurch.org



Cedars Book Club

(ongoing on the third Wednesday of each month)
Wednesday, April 15
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
via Zoom



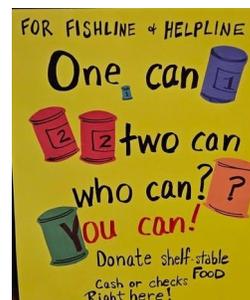
The Living Universe Story, A Participatory Integral Spirit Cosmology for an Ecological Civilization by David Korten

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 at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

CEDARS Presents: YOU CAN!

Here at **Cedars**, we help support over 1,000 families who shop at Fishline (**736 families**) and/or at Helpline House (**325 families**) once a week to have enough food. Every can of beans, box of cereal, or bag of flour we contribute is gratefully received by food bank clients. Just think of what we could provide if we each brought one item to church each week!



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**: sandy.spears@att.net



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

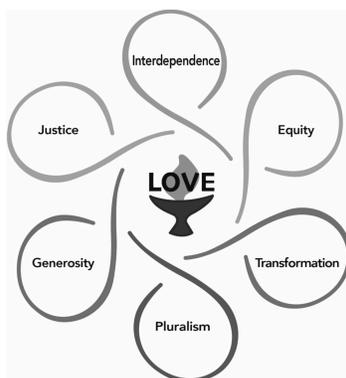
If you're on Facebook, there is a Facebook group called Cedars UU Church Community Conversations for members and friends to share events, fun stories, etc. Let's keep the coffee hour going all week long! Join the group [HERE](#).

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 in office hours

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

Cedars Office

Monday thru Thursday 12:00 pm - 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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