

The Beacon

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



Volume 17 Issue 10 March 5, 2026

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This Week At Cedars

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.

Monday, March 9

Women's Covenant Group
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Fieldstone Retirement Community

Tuesday, March 10

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

Wednesday, March 11

Suquamish Community Dinner
12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Suquamish United Church of Christ

Thursday, March 12

Journaling Group
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Cedar Center

Friday, March 13

Music Committee
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Cedars Center

Sunday, March 15

BINK Spring Music Festival
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
St. Cecilia's Catholic Parish

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

Upcoming Services

Sunday Service, March 15
10:00 am
The Island School

Humanism: Wanting What is Best for One Another so that All Might Flourish

Rev. Margo Reinhart, Cedars Minister
David Thomas, Worship Associate

Humanists and Unitarians have been in conversation for over a century, learning from one another and partnering to create a belief system that strives to create circumstances in which all might flourish. Let's explore together how **Humanism** might guide our daily practices and increase our capacity for **wonder, awe, gratitude, and service**.



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



The Revolutionary Act of Paying Attention

It has been a hard week for all of us, seeing what is happening in the Middle East and worrying about what else will follow. Placing the role of the governments to the side for a moment, let us focus on the civilians and those deployed. From shopkeepers to students and to the families of those in the military, we wish for a hastened **calm and peace**.

For more than a year, the current policies of our nation have kept us in a never-ending flux and increasing emotional and physical violence. While it is hard to face these realities each day, let us know that we face them together and we have one another to lean on for support, kindness, care, and sanity. Support for one another is a light that this community does not take for granted.

The theme for March is "**Paying Attention**". It is a revolutionary act to pay attention when events in the world are painful and stark. While it is important to take breaks from the relentless news cycle, we can still respond by keeping vigil for those most impacted by our government's decisions and those in the Middle East.

This Friday or Saturday night, before the changing of the clocks, I ask that we all pause to light a candle. Let us keep in our thoughts the injured who have been wounded emotionally and physically in the protests and attacks. Also, the rescuers, the first responders, and emergency workers are often the first at the scene. Let us send our care to all living in fear and uncertainty and in the path of harm's way.

From Rosemary Wahtola Trommer "After"

On this day after my country bombed a girls' school across the world, part of me does not want to meet the day. But just after dawn, I wake to the relentless honking, honking of geese returning from far away to make a home again in our yard.

I want to rewrite yesterday so every girl who went to school also came home to her family, so every mother and father woke this morning knowing their child was safe in their bed.

I am so filled with horror – I don't know how to rise. But the great noise of the geese returning pulls me into the world to meet whatever the day brings. A goose, with her long black throat, proof that life goes on. Even when we can't imagine how. Even then.

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](#).

Request for Volunteers: Cedar Center Deep Clean Saturday, March 21 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Cedar Center



These seasonal cleanings make a big difference in keeping our shared spaces welcoming, safe, and cared for. If you're available, please sign up for a task or simply let us know you plan to come. Some supplies will be provided, but if you have a favorite, bring it along. We'll have coffee and snacks on hand.

Your time and energy—whether for the full two hours or even part of it—are truly appreciated. You can find the sign-up link [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.

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.spears@att.net

Explore the Major Religions of the World

Sundays, March 15 and 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

The **Social Action Committee** has coordinated a special



upcoming performance by Kids in Concert during the **Sunday Service on March 22**, as part of their March Special Collection.

Kids In Concert (KIC) is a free, four-day-a-week music and youth development program serving **90 students ages 6–18** across North Kitsap County. Founded in partnership with the Suquamish Tribe, it offers high-quality instruction in strings, percussion, ensembles, and choir while ensuring equitable access—no auditions, no tuition, no prior experience required.

KIC nurtures compassion, well-being, and leadership through social-emotional learning, mentorship, homework help, healthy snacks, and college-readiness support. With 32 students on the waitlist and rising demand, the program is working to close a funding gap so more young people can experience the healing power of music.

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 emerge from their winter hibernation, and the earth fights back against 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: kelafond@gmail.com



Ongoing Programs

Cedars Book Club

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

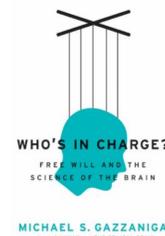
Wednesday, March 18
Who's in Charge, Free Will & the Science of the Brain, by M S Gazzaniga

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 Music Committee

(ongoing on the second Friday of each month)

Friday, March 13

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 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**: 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

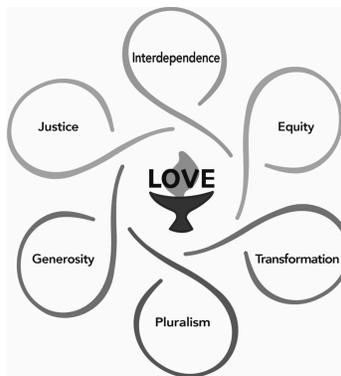
If you're on Facebook, there is a Facebook group called Cedars UU Church Community Conversations for members and friends to share events, fun stories, etc. Let's keep the coffee hour going all week long! Join the group [HERE](#).

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

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[Cedars UU Church \(website\)](#)



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