

## This Week and More at Cedars

Cedars UU Church <office@cedarsuuchurch.org>  
Reply-To: Cedars UU Church <office@cedarsuuchurch.org>  
To: office@cedarsuuchurch.org

Thu, Apr 2, 2026 at 6:05 AM



## The Beacon

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

Volume 17 Issue 14 April 2, 2026

### This Week At Cedars

#### Sunday Service, April 5

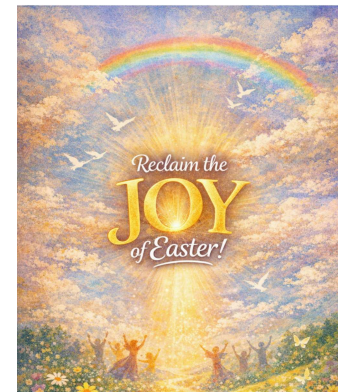
10:00 am

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.

**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.

#### Thursday, April 2

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

#### Tuesday, April 7

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

#### Friday, April 10

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

Please see below for more details and [use this link to find the Cedars calendar.](#)

# THIRD ACT

## April 19th Special Collection: Third Act

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

On **April 19th**, **Fran Korten** will talk about what Third Act does and how you can get involved. Third Act is a dedicated group of people working together to build a powerful **elder-led movement** for climate action and democracy protections. [For more information visit https://thirdact.org/](https://thirdact.org/)

If you would like to receive a tax deduction for your donation, please write a check payable to Cedars UU Church with Third Act in the memo to place in the **offering basket on April 19th** or send it to the Cedars Church Office by **April 26th** at 284 Madrona Way #128, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110.

For more information, [please use this link to email Mike Cox at socialaction@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:socialaction@cedarsuuchurch.org).

## Upcoming Service

### Sunday Service, April 12

10:00 am

The Island School

It Isn't Fair!

**Alan Miller, Cedars Guest Speaker**  
**Gregory Cook, Worship Associate**

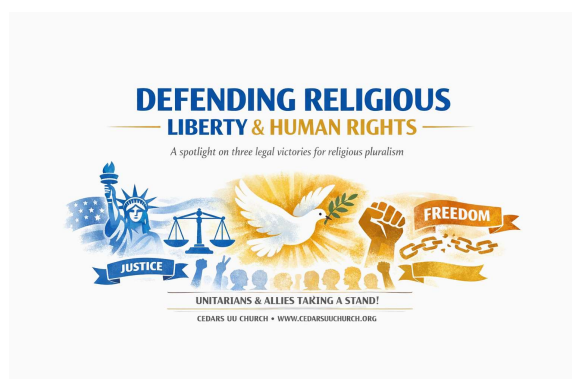


Late second temple Judaism poses the question of God's fairness in the Book of Job, a question that is finally answered in Jesus' preaching of the coming Kingdom of God; The Bhagavad Gita presents the Hindu system of (hidden) fairness in the caste system and reincarnation. Is the only path to fairness (justice) by way of similar myths?

**Alan Miller** earned a PhD in comparative religion in 1968 from the University of Chicago. In the 58 years since then he has learned that religions offer many answers to the Big Questions of life, and, although none of them are satisfactory to him, all offer insights into the human condition. He enjoys nothing so much as sharing some of those insights.

## A Message From Reverend Margo

As legislators in different states test new ways to impose far-right Christian nationalism on everyone, Unitarian Universalists, the Unitarian Universalist Association, other faith traditions, and legal advocates are defending religious liberty and human rights. Here is a spotlight on three recent legal victories for religious pluralism.



### 1. Acknowledging Abortion Access as a Religious Belief

In 2024, the UUA joined an amicus brief led by the National Council of Jewish Women in the case *Anonymous Plaintiffs v. the Individual Members of the Medical Licensing Board* that challenged Indiana's near-total abortion ban on religious grounds. On March 5, Marion County Superior Court [permanently blocked the state](#) from enforcing the law for people whose sincerely held religious beliefs require access to abortion care. "The decision is significant not only for the protection it provides, but for what it reinforces: the state cannot privilege one view of abortion and religion over all others," [notes the ACLU of Indiana](#).

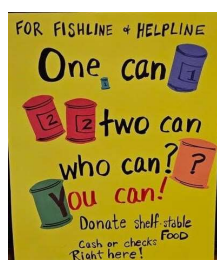
## 2. Protecting Children from Religious Indoctrination in Public Schools

Arkansas passed a law last year that required "all public schools to permanently display a government-chosen, Protestant version of the Ten Commandments in every classroom and library," [according to the ACLU of Arkansas](#). A group of multifaith families living in Arkansas, including Unitarian Universalists, filed a lawsuit, *Stinson v. Fayetteville School District No. 1*, which argues the law violates the First Amendment's Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses. This month, [a U.S. federal judge ruled in favor of the families](#) and permanently blocked the law from enforcement.

## 3. Advocating for the Religious Rights of People in Immigration Detention

Interfaith clergy sued to offer in-person pastoral care to people held by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building in Hennepin County, Minnesota. On Friday, March 20, [a U.S. federal judge ruled](#) that under the First Amendment, the government must let faith leaders enter the building to provide spiritual support. "This decision reaffirms the humanity of those who are detained and facing fear, isolation, and crisis: our lives have worth, our souls have value," said Bishop Jen Nagel of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA, a plaintiff in the lawsuit, [according to a news release](#).

## Social Action



### 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 in order 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 what we could provide if we each brought just one item each week to church!

Please get in touch with **Nancy Dowey** or **Patricia Erdmann** with 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 for one or more slots using this link](#), whatever works for you, and your help will be SUPER APPRECIATED! Our next opportunity is April 28.

For more information, [please use this link to email 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](#) to join the team using [this link](#). Your time and energy will make a meaningful difference.

For more information, please email Heidi Parkington-Thal at [office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) (<mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org>).

[org](#)) using [this link](#).

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## 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** or [send an email to \[office@cedarsuuchurch.org\]\(mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org\)](#) using [this link](#).

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## Cedars T-Shirts Are Here!



We have **Cedars T-shirts** available for purchase! Each shirt is \$20 and made from organic cotton.

Use [this link](#) to email the office, [office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org), to get yours!

## Group Meetings

### Cedars Book Club

**Wednesday, April 15** (ongoing on the third Wednesday of each month)

**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 about the book using this link.](#)



Please get in touch with Herb Hethcote with any questions by [sending an email to \[office@cedarsuuchurch.org\]\(mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org\)](#) using [this link](#).

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### Cedars Music Committee



**Friday, April 10** (ongoing on the second Friday of each month)

**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 you are interested or want more information, contact **Fran Korten** or [send an email to office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) using [this link](#).

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### Cedars Women's Covenant Group



**Monday, April 13** (ongoing on the second Monday of each month)

**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 you are interested or want more information, contact **Fran Korten** or [send an email to office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) using [this link](#).

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### Cedars Men's Group



**Tuesday, April 14** (ongoing the second Tuesday of each month)

**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 or [send an email to office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) for Men's Group information using [this link](#).

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## More About Cedars

### 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.

Use this [link](#) to answer the Survey questions.

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## Members and Friends of Cedars

Do you know of anyone who is looking to sublet a work/office space? Maybe for a remote job? The revenue would be used to support Cedars' services.



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, corner desk, and bookshelves—move-in ready and perfect for consultants and remote workers. \$700 a month.

Contact **Sandy Spears** or [send an email to office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) using this [link](#) for more information.

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## Cedars Childcare on Sunday Mornings

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! [Click this link for details about how we provide childcare on Sundays.](#)

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## Cedars on Social Media

Did you know that Cedars now has a podcast? Our podcast is called "**Sunday Mornings at Cedars**".

[Click this link](#) to find our podcast on **Spotify**.

[Click this link](#) to find our podcast on the **Apple Podcast app**.

[Click this link](#) to find it on **Amazon Music**.

[Click this link](#) to find it on **iHeartRadio**.



We are also on **Instagram!** To find us on **Instagram** click [this link](#). And as usual, find us on our **Cedars Facebook** page with [this link](#). 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 using this link](#) for our **Cedars Community Facebook** page.

**Be sure to "Like" us and "Follow" us on each one!**

[Click this link](#) to find **audio recordings** of our Services on our website.

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## 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, [use this link](#) to email your Beacon article to the Cedars office at [office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org).

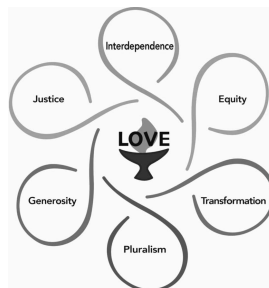
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## UUA News and Information

Click this [link](#) or image to learn more about UUA values, news, and information.



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 using this [link](#) to our website.

#### **Member Directory**

Members and Friends can easily search our online Church Directory using this [link](#) to our directory for contact information. The link is located under the Connection tab of the Cedars website and via [this link](#) to our directory.

#### **Worship Services**

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
[The Island School](#)  
[8553 NE Day Road](#)  
[Bainbridge Island, WA 98110](#)

#### **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](mailto: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](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org)

Use this [link](#) to subscribe to The Beacon.

Do you have an article, event, or announcement?  
Use this [link](#) to email it to [office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) for inclusion in our Thursday newsletter (3 days in advance). Use this [link](#) to see our [submission guidelines](#).





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