
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 9, 2026 at 6:04 AM



The Beacon

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

Volume 17 Issue 15 April 9, 2026



This Week At Cedars

Sunday Service, April 12

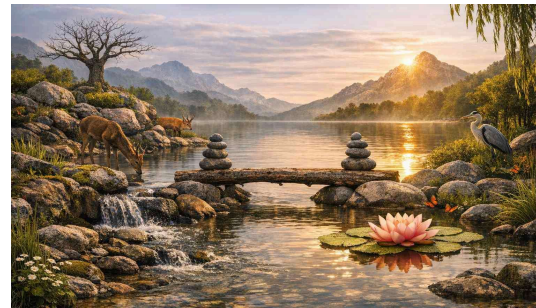
10:00 am

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.

Monday, April 13

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

Tuesday, April 14

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

Wednesday, April 15

Book Club
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
via Zoom

Worship Associates
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
via Zoom

Saturday, April 18

Stewardship Special Event
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Prue's House

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



New News

Gretchen Yanover Performing at Cedars Sunday Service



This Sunday, **April 12th**, musician **Gretchen Yanover** returns to our sanctuary, filling the space with the rich, luminous sound of her cello. If you haven't heard Gretchen play live, don't miss this chance. She'll be sharing special selections chosen just for this service.

Learn more about her work at <http://www.gretchenyanover.com/>

2026-2027 Pledge Drive Update



Every year in late spring we set aside time to connect with each other, think about all the reasons that Cedars is important to us, and gather funds for the coming year. Our annual pledge drive for the 2026-2027 church year is now underway with pledge forms being sent out last week. Members and friends will have two ways to pledge this year, either on paper or electronically. We are asking everyone to please send in their pledges by early May so that the Board can finalize the proposed budget before the annual congregational meeting on June 7. Let's Gather Resilience Together!

If you did not receive a pledge form in the mail and would like to make a pledge to support our Cedars community, you can make a pledge by [clicking HERE](#).

Kids in Concert "High Notes" at Cedars

KIC advanced chamber ensemble received a special spotlight this month when their recent performance at Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church was featured in KIC's Spring newsletter under "High Notes."

"We were honored to be invited to share our music with the congregation of Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church on Bainbridge Island this March. Our chamber ensemble gave a moving performance, including a beautiful rendition of Billy Joel's "And So It Goes." Our teens love playing this piece, and we love seeing their confidence and musical expression grow at each performance." - Quarter Notes Spring 2026 Edition



[Click here to watch the chamber group perform "And So It Goes" at Cedars UU.](#)



Upcoming Service

Sunday Service, April 12

10:00 am

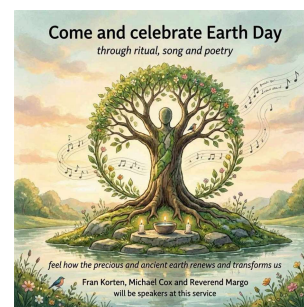
The Island School

Celebrating Earth Day

Rev. Margo Rinehart, Cedars Minister

Fran Korten and Alan Miller, Cedars Guest Speakers

David Thomas, Worship Associate



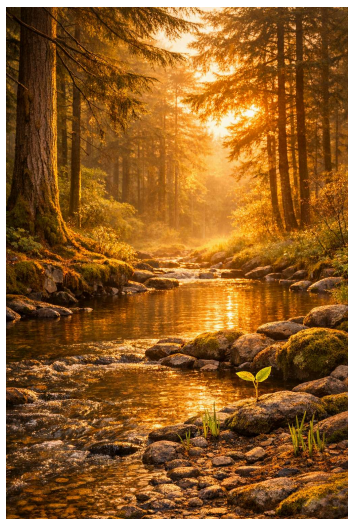
Come and celebrate Earth Day through ritual, song and poetry and feel how the precious and ancient earth renews and transforms us. Fran Korten, Michael Cox and Reverend Margo will be speakers at this service.

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.

A Message From Reverend Margo

Embracing Possibility

Of all the themes this year, *Embracing Possibility* is arguably the closest to the core of our faith. Historically, where others saw sin and depravity at the center of the human state of being, Unitarians and Universalists saw goodness, given by God and shared with one another. As the centuries and decades went on, even though for many the faith became less or not at all based on a Christian idea of God, the claims of goodness, generosity, and possibility remained central.



This month we explore what it feels like to embrace possibility. We do this at a time when we experience the unmatched yearning for stability and knowing what will happen next with the hope of change for our families, communities, nation, and world. Sometimes just facing the day requires demanding what is possible over what is probable and leaping into hope for the great unknown and yet-to-be imagined experiences.

I find myself increasingly aware that life has never made promises of making sense or taking a course that I can predict. I recently came across a question that asked, "What if we treated every day like our first day instead of our last?" The question opened up a whole host of new possibilities with a yet unwritten day, a new beginning and a full future ahead. Questions begin to pop such as who do I want to gather around me in the journey, where do we start, what are the skills required, and what might be asked of me as I surrender to the mystery?

This month, I invite you to explore what is possible in your life. As a place to start, Unitarian Universalist minister, Scott Tayler, encourages us to ask the following questions:

What is awakening in my life?

What in me wants to unfold?

What needs "unlocking" in my life so possibility can emerge?

Where do I need to loosen, soften, or crack open a closed door so that what is stirring inside me has room to grow?

With your questions in mind, step out into the grace of the cosmos and the support of your UU community and prepare to be ambushed by the possibilities. - **Reverend Margo**

Let Astonishment be Possible

by Gretchen Haley

Whatever you have come anticipating, whatever you expect or worry for our world, for the future for our lives – let it go. Make space in your heart to be surprised. Make room in your soul for a new story to take shape. Let astonishment be possible...Imagine here the bursting of joy, relentless and resilient, coming in waves to wash over us with music, and story, silence, and still this dreaming together. Being hope for each other and courage to believe in this new day dawning for us all.

Social Action

TH!RD ACT

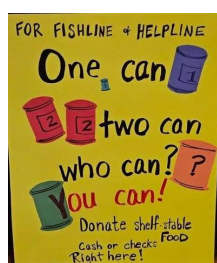
April 19th Special Collection: Third Act

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).



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](mailto: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>) using this [link](#).

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

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, 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](#).

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](#).

Cedars Women's Covenant Group



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

2:00 pm - 3:30 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](#).

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](#).



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.](#)

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.

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.](#)

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.

Beacon Article Deadline

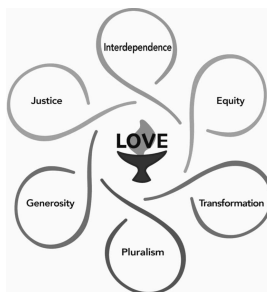
The deadline for submitting content for The Beacon is Monday by the end of the day. If you would like to add an article, [use this link](#) to email your Beacon article to the Cedars office at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

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

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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Do you have an article, event, or announcement?
Use this [link](#) to email it to 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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