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This Week and More at Cedars - June 4, 2026

1 message

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

Thu, Jun 4, 2026 at 6:02 AM



The Beacon

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

Volume 17 Issue 23 June 4, 2026



This Week At Cedars

Flourishing Together: Flower Communion

Sunday Service, June 7

10:00 am

The Island School

Rev. Margo Rinehart, Cedars Minister

Liz Motter, Worship Associate

As spring turns into summer, Unitarian Universalists from around the world celebrate Flower Communion, a ceremony of celebration of each person's uniqueness and to honor how we flourish together. Flower Communion was created for his congregation in 1923 by Czech Unitarian minister, Nobert Capek. **Remember to bring a few blossoms to give away** as we share in the abundance of life.



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.

Sunday, June 7

Annual Congregational Meeting
11:30 pm - 1:00 pm (right after service)
The Island School

Monday, June 8

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

Tuesday, June 9

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

Friday, June 12

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

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



New News

Newer to Cedars Conversation

Sunday, July 5 (ongoing on the first Sunday of each month)

11:15 am–12:00pm (right after Service)

The Island School

If you're newer to Cedars or simply want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, you're invited to join our **Newer to Cedars Conversation**. This is an easy, friendly space to ask questions, meet others who are also getting connected, and enjoy light snacks.

These conversations are relaxed, fun, and usually run **30–45 minutes**, depending on how many of us gather. We'll be hosting them **every first Sunday of the month**, so there's always another chance to drop in.



A Message From Reverend Margo

Flourishing Together - Lessons from the Peace Pagoda

Last Saturday five of us from the Cedars UU Church attended the Inauguration of the International Peace Pagoda. The Pagoda is located on land at the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Poulsbo and directly adjacent to the Bangor Nuclear Submarine Base. While I was anticipating the beauty of a sacred Buddhist ceremony and fully appreciating the indomitable spirit required to bring this spiritual project to fruition, what stays with me with the greatest intensity is witnessing the deeply meaningful friendships between the Buddhist monks and the members of the Suquamish Tribe. Also, how all of us on that day

were enveloped in the eternal heartbeat of creation, which melts away all pretense of separation.

For an hour, monks led the sacred Buddhist ceremony with no translation. While I might have enjoyed hearing the recitation of the sacred sutra texts and bodhisattva vows, translation was not truly necessary to fully live the experience. However, participation of any available senses was essential. The smell of the incense, the visual beauty of flower petals being scattered, adoration through the chiming of sacred cymbals, and the resonance in the body of the beating of the drums. The monks invited us to walk around the pagoda. Most of us stopped to offer incense, people chanted and drummers kept time. Not ordinary time, but the time beating in the heart of eternal creation, of mother earth, and of everything that sustains us.

The heartbeat also demonstrated the bonding between the monks of the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist order and the Suquamish tribe. Later in the ceremony they both shared the pain involved in having sacred structures burned, with the U.S. Government burning the Suquamish Long House and arson destroying the first attempt at rebuilding. For the Buddhist Order, the decades long delays in the government approving the permits to build and then arson consuming the first efforts at building the Peace Pagoda. Suquamish Tribal Elder, Barbara Lawrence, shared her deep gratitude for the friendship forged between the Suquamish and the Nipponzan Buddhist order. She explained to us that when someone in the tribe has an abundance of a resource, it is always shared with others. As she came to know Senji Kaneda from the Bainbridge temple and other monks, she observed the Buddhists' sharing their abundance of peace. Buddhist leaders, including Senji Kanaeda, explained how the Peace Pagoda is grounded in the earth and creation wisdom held by the Suquamish and other indigenous people.

May we all learn from this international experience of feeling the heartbeat of the earth and the quest for peace both within and beyond ourselves. May we flourish together by seeking deeper understandings that uphold us all and reach out with open hearts and minds. Namaste'. - Rev. Margo Rinehart



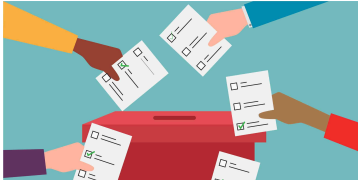
On Saturday, May 23, 2026, Mark Shaffer, Susan Shaffer, Reverend Margo, Deb Allen, (shown here left to right), and Kathryn Lafond (not pictured) attended the Inaugural Ceremony for the Pacific NW Peace Pagoda at Ground Zero in

Poulsbo. Constructed by Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist monks and local volunteers. It is the first on the West Coast (the others are in MA and NY) and one of only three Peace Pagoda projects in the United States.



Board News

Hold the Date!



Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be on **June 7th** directly after the service. All Members and Friends are welcome to attend; however only members may vote. We will be voting on the **2026-2027 budget**, as well as new Board and Nominating Committee members. It is very important that we have a quorum at this meeting so that the votes are valid. **We need at least 30% of our members to attend.** Therefore, we want as many members attending as possible.



Upcoming Service

Now What?

Sunday Service, June 14

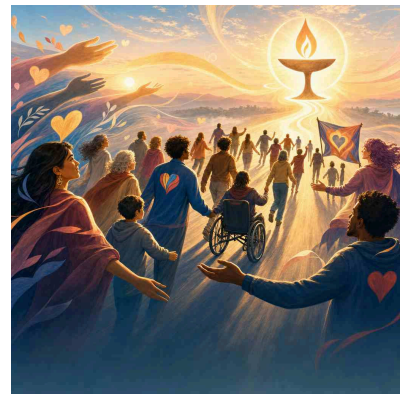
10:00 am

The Island School

Rev. Barbara Gilday, Cedars Guest Minister

Johanna Munson, Worship Associate

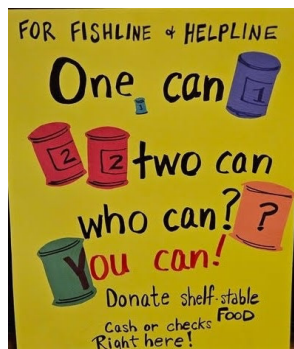
As we try to make sense of what is happening in our country, it is useful to look back at some past recoveries, and importantly, look at what successful strategies are being employed in our day. We must not lose faith. We must not give in. And true to our Unitarian Universalist values, we must think and act in love - the greatest power in the world.



Rev. Barbara Gilday came to professional ministry in mid-life, but her life has been full of inquiry, diversity, social justice, connecting and sharing with others: Teaching in Ghana, hosting Japanese Exchange Programs, developing peer tutoring programs, hosting a Ukrainian refugee, to name a few. Currently, she is exploring in new and deeper ways, how we continue to find joy in, and give value to life as our capacities change. Barbara is the grateful member of a loving, blended family, and a new mom to a young rescue dog, Marley, who keeps her physically active.

Social Action

CEDARS Presents: YOU CAN!



The growing need for food resources in our wider community is unmistakable. Because the most urgent needs are currently across the Agate Pass Bridge, we are currently directing all Cedars food donations to Fishline. Every contribution of cans, boxes, bottles, and more goes straight onto the shelves and is immediately appreciated.

Thank you for giving what you can. **Every bit truly helps.**

Questions? See Nancy Dowey or Patricia Erdmann or email them:
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. [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 **June 30**.

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 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 Women's Covenant Group



Monday, June 8 (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, June 9 (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](#).

Cedars Music Committee



Friday, June 12 (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 Book Group

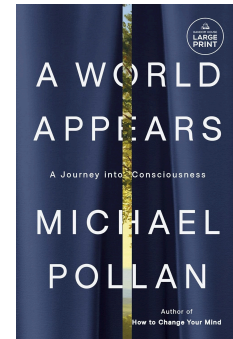
Wednesday, June 17th

1:30 - 3:00 pm

via Zoom

A World Appears: A Journey into Consciousness

by Michael Pollan



When it comes to the phenomenon that is consciousness, there is one-point scientists, philosophers, and researchers can all agree on with a level of certainty: that it feels like something to be ourselves. And yet, the fact that each and every one of us has a subjective experience of the world continues to be one of the greatest mysteries in nature. How is it that our mental operations are accompanied by feelings, thoughts, and a sense of self? What would studying the idea of an inner life even look like, considering we have as little distance and perspective on it as fish do of the sea? What began for Michael Pollan as a startling awareness of his own consciousness soon evolved into a greater fascination with this strange and elusive phenomenon.

In **A WORLD APPEARS**, Pollan traces the unmapped continent that is consciousness via several radically different perspectives—scientific, philosophical, spiritual, historical, and psychedelic—to see what each has to teach us about this central kernel of our lives.

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](#).

League of Women Voters of Kitsap: Bainbridge Island Unit

Saturday, June 27 (ongoing the last Saturday of each month)

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Cedar Center



The League of Women Voters of Kitsap is a nonpartisan political organization committed to educating voters and encouraging them to engage in our community.

If you are interested or want more information, contact **Naomi Gary**, co-chair of the LWV Bainbridge Island Unit, or [send an email to office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) using [this link](#).

League of Women Voters Website

Ukulele Jam Group

Saturday, June 27 (ongoing on the last Saturday of each month)

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Cedars Center



A new Ukulele Jam Group is taking shape, and everyone in the Cedars community is welcome to join in. Bring your own instrument but we also have plenty to share.

Please think about 3 favorite and easy songs you'd like to play. Send to Rebecca Kim to office@cedarsuuchurch.org using [this link](#).

She has the Ultimate Guitar app and projects the chords and lyrics on the big screen. Makes it super

fun and easy for us all to JAM!!!

If you are interested or want more information, contact **Naomi Gary**, or [send an email to office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) 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.

[View Survey](#)

Members and Friends of Cedars

Do you know someone looking for a calm, welcoming place to work—perhaps for a remote job or small practice? We're seeking a subletter who would feel at home in a space grounded in Unitarian values such as respect, inclusivity, and community-mindedness.



A bright, furnished **8' x 15' office** is available within a quiet, peaceful professional suite just two blocks from the local movie theater. The space includes access to a shared conference room, small kitchen, and bathroom. It features exterior windows, a comfortable two-seat couch, a corner desk, and bookshelves—move-in ready and well-suited for consultants, therapists, or remote workers seeking a thoughtful, values-aligned environment.

Rent is \$700 per 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

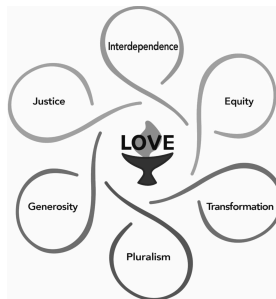
The deadline for submitting content for The Beacon is Monday by the end of the day. If you would like to add an article, [use this link](#) to email your Beacon article to the Cedars office at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

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*

[View](#)

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

[View Map Here](#)

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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