
This Week and More at Cedars - June 11, 2026

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

Thu, Jun 11, 2026 at 6:03 AM



The Beacon

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

Volume 17 Issue 24 June 11, 2026



This Week At Cedars

Now What?

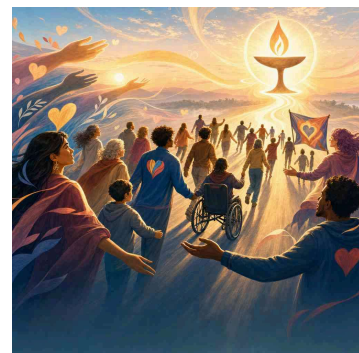
Sunday Service, June 14

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.

Tuesday, June 16

**Care Team Meeting
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
The Island School**

Tuesday, June 16

**Membership Meeting
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Cedars Center**

Saturday, June 20

**Bainbridge Pride
12:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Waterfront Park**

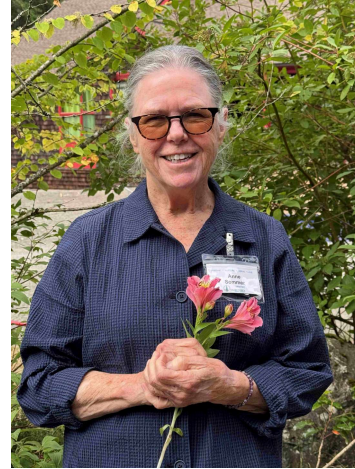
Please see below for more details and use this [link](#) to find the Cedars calendar.



New News

Welcome to Anne Sommer

Anne Sommer was born and raised in a small town in Ohio and spent twelve years in Catholic school, an experience she jokes she's still recovering from. At 25 she headed west and, to her great surprise, eventually found herself on Bainbridge Island, where she met her late husband, Ted. She was widowed three and a half years ago.



She and Ted have a daughter and two granddaughters who now live in Oregon. Over the years she has held many jobs, but her favorites were teaching bridge and working as a birth and postpartum doula. Today she shares her home with Tilly, her lively five-year-old Aussiedoodle.

She is deeply grateful to have found Cedars at this point in her spiritual journey.

Help Represent Our UU Values at Bainbridge Pride

Saturday, June 20th

12:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Waterfront Park



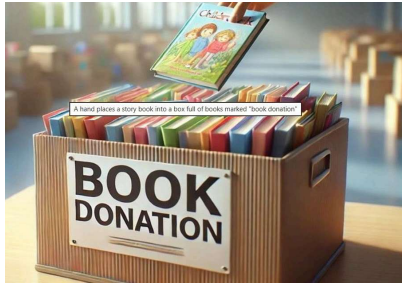
Cedars will have a booth at Bainbridge Pride this year.

Would you be willing to staff the booth for a short time to welcome people and show support for our LGBTQ+ community?

We still need two volunteers to join Rev. Margo at our booth from 3 to 5 PM. PRIDE events are lots of fun and a great way to interact with people, sharing our UU Values that put love at the center.

We have several engaging activities planned, including scratch-off bookmarks, bracelet-making, a free book library, as well as info about Cedars and the UUA. After setting up at 11:30, the festival will begin at noon, with music, food and fun. What better way to spend a Saturday, than experiencing a supportive event and spending an hour or two to show how Unitarian Universalists are Welcoming to All. This booth is organized by the Cedars Social Action Committee. Thanks to **Sandy Spears** for organizing the booth. [Contact Patricia Erdmann for more info at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org)

GOT BOOKS?



Help us tempt curious browsers to our booth at **Bainbridge and Poulsbo Pride**—nothing draws people in like a Free Library! We're happily collecting gently loved books for all ages. Bring your donations to Sunday services or drop them at the Cedars Center anytime before August 15.

Questions? [Track down Patricia Erdmann at office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org).

Rev. Margo Vacation June 28–July 11

Rev. Margo will be on vacation from Sunday, June 28 through Saturday, July 11.

She looks forward to reconnecting with everyone at the **Sunday Congregational Potluck Brunch at Battle Point Park on July 12**. There will be no formal program or speaker that day, but Rev. Margo will likely offer a few gentle conversation prompts for table groups to enjoy as we gather together in community. **We wish her a restful and renewing break.**



A Message From Reverend Margo

Side with Love

Last night I attended a Side With Love forum which featured a panel discussing our democracy, specifically what we are celebrating on the 250th anniversary of our country. **Side With Love is sponsored by our national Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)** and the panel featured our **UUA President, Sofia Betancourt**. I spent much of the hour thinking about recent action from the Department of Defense **reducing allowable religious tradition choices from over 180 to 31**, twenty-two of which are Christian. Many of our Founding Fathers would be appalled.



The freedom of religion that the founders of this nation created was not only for people who shared their beliefs. The First Amendment is based on the idea that the government should not decide which religious faiths are legitimate and those which should be excluded. Deists, Unitarians, Jews, Catholics, Baptists, Quakers and many others could exist and flourish side by side without the government deciding if their beliefs were American enough.

Some of the most famous founders did not fit neatly into religious categories. Benjamin Franklin publicly questioned Christian traditions. Some of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Deists, believing in a God that created the universe but did not manifest in daily life or organized religion. Thomas Jefferson did not believe in the divinity of Jesus. John Adams attended a Unitarian, not a Trinitarian church.

There is the juxtaposition of the First Amendment and the Department of Defense. Prior to last week's announcement, the Department of Defense allowed service people to choose from over 180 different faith groups to be noted in their personnel records. (They are still able to keep their actual affiliation on their personal ID, often known as "dog tags.") Among several Christian traditions, choices of Ba'hai, Buddhist, Agnostic, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh and a few others remain. **Paganism, Unitarian Universalism and Humanism were omitted.** Mormon Latter-Day Saints were set aside from other Christian faiths. Even the United Church of Christ is now characterized as "Christian - other."

The explanation given by the Department of Defense was that simplification would allow the Chaplain to quickly look at the religious compilation of their units and determine how they should structure resources "to best provide for war fighters of all faith groups." As a minister this explanation makes no sense to me. I would only be able to look at a small slice of the faiths represented and then have to guess at the others. This would certainly not be providing for "all faith groups" - only the groups that the DOD has found to matter.

June 8th was the anniversary of James Madison standing before the House of Representatives in 1789, introducing a set of amendments that later became the Bill of Rights. The first freedom was religious freedom. I remain thankful that I can choose my own religion, or none, and that so far, I have the freedom to seek my own spiritual truths. I remember each day that our Unitarian Universalist faith calls us all to believe that all expressions of faith matter. May it always be so.



Board News

July 12, 2026, Cedars Sunday Service Potluck Brunch at Battle Point Park

July 12, our service moves to the Picnic Shelter at Battle Point Park for a congregational potluck brunch. Break out your flip-flops, bring something brunchy to share, and enjoy a relaxed morning as we welcome the start of summer together. We'll swap stories about favorite childhood summer memories, chat about plans for the sunny days ahead, and enjoy being in community. **Families and children are warmly welcome.**

The Picnic Shelter is near the Arrow Point entrance on the east side of the park. If you're using GPS, enter 10727 Arrow Point Drive NE.



Upcoming Service

Where are the men? Problems and Progress



Sunday Service, June 21

10:00 am

The Island School

Chuck Walbridge, Cedars Guest Speaker

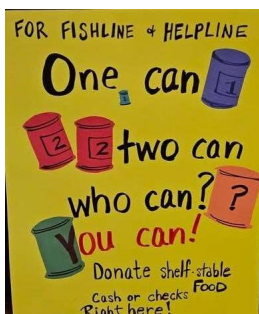
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate

Within the liberal left is a subgroup determined that men are the problem. They use words like toxic masculinity. On the the illiberal right there is the mansphere, a subgroup that seems determined to exemplify toxic masculinity. The lives and fortunes of most men barely get noticed.



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

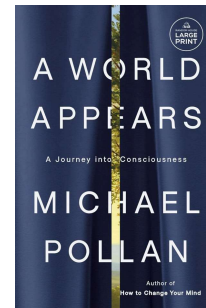
1:30 - 3:00 pm

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 using this link](#).

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.



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 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

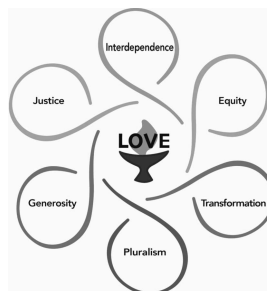
The deadline for submitting content for The Beacon is Monday by the end of the day. If you would like to add an article, use this [link](#) to email your Beacon article to the Cedars office at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

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

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 for inclusion in our Thursday newsletter (3 days in advance). Use this [link](#) to see our [submission guidelines](#).



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