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This Week and More at Cedars - July 2, 2026

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

Thu, Jul 2, 2026 at 7:05 AM



The Beacon

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

Volume 18 Issue 1 July 2, 2026



This Week At Cedars

Why Community Matters

Sunday Service, July 5

10:00 am

The Island School

Angela Lujan, Cedars Guest Speaker

Liz Motter, Worship Associate

The development and importance of community and the role it plays in resilience. How it relates to Pride and its importance for all of us.

Angela Lujan is a board member of Poulsbo Pride, the Executive Director of NW Hopeful Horizons, and an employee of Kitsap Mental Health. As a mental health professional of 14 years, serving the Kitsap County community has always been important to her. She sees the challenges our community faces and the struggles individuals face when they feel a lack of belonging. Her passion for serving and stewarding others centers on her hope for a better future.



Thursday, July 2

Social Action Committee
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
via Zoom

Sunday, July 5

Newer to Cedars Conversation
11:15 am - 12:00 pm
The Island School

Wednesday, July 8

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

Friday, July 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.



Reverend Margo on Vacation and Unavailable June 28 through July 11

Her next community gathering: July 12 at the Cedars Potluck Brunch

Save the Date: July 12, 2026, Cedars Sunday Service Potluck Brunch at Battle Point Park Picnic Shelter



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 at 10727 Arrow Point Drive NE

Gretchen Yanover performing at BIMA

Saturday, July 25

7:00 pm - 8:30pm

Bainbridge Island Museum of Art

Gretchen Yanover, one of the wonderful musicians who plays for us during our services, will be performing at BIMA on **July 25**. Gretchen will perform her original pieces on electric cello with looping pedal live on stage while artist Anastasia Rýser projects real-time visual environments that pair dynamically with each piece to create an immersive, visual and musical experience.

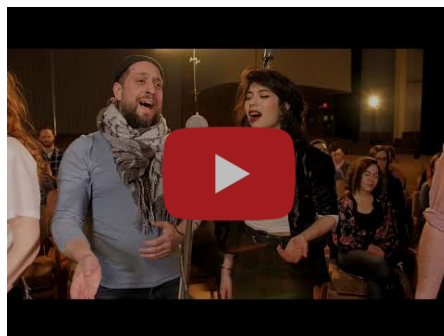


[Find out more and buy tickets to the concert at this link.](#)

Hymn of the Month for July: *We Rise* by Batya Levin

[Please follow the link for a video preview](#)

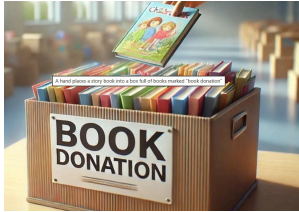
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tkmkwufRVw&authuser=0>



Book Donation Request for Poulsbo Pride

Big thanks to Jeff and Nancy Philip, our Free Library at Bainbridge PRIDE was a total people magnet!

Now let's refill it for Poulsbo PRIDE in August. We welcome new or gently used books, and **we especially need kids' books.**



Drop donations at the Cedars Center or on the table with the food-bank items outside our worship space. Please see Patricia Erdmann with questions.

A Message from Reverend Margo

Flourishing at Bainbridge Pride

Bainbridge Island Pride was a joyful day of celebration, support, and flourishing. Twelve Cedars congregants contributed to making our booth possible by securing our reservation, setting up, greeting visitors, donating books, managing take-down, and tending to all the little pieces in between. **Deep thanks to Sandy Spears, Dean Sampson, Mary Romeo, Nancy Philip, Jeff Philip, Nancy Dowey, Liz Motter, Rod Kempkes, Naomi Gary, Patricia Erdmann, Anne Sommer, and Kathryn LaFond.**

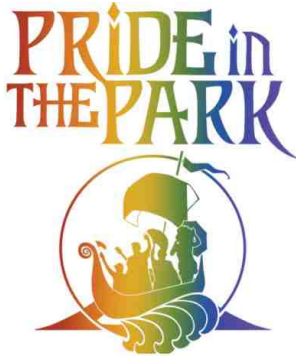


Throughout the day we welcomed festival-goers with rainbow bracelets engraved with our Cedars website, invited them to browse our free books, encouraged exploration of the sassy sticker collection, and helped children create bookmarks. When the moment felt right, I often asked whether they were familiar with Unitarian Universalism. Several already were—and a number signed up for our Beacon mailing list. Quite a lot of connection and conversation for a 10' x 10' canopy.

As we reflected on our purpose for being at Pride, three themes emerged. First, to celebrate LGBTQ+ identities and help uphold a space where people can flourish in full acceptance and belonging. Second, to share that Cedars is a home for many beliefs, held together by shared values and principles, where all are welcome. And third, to express our joy in being part of Cedars, of Bainbridge and Kitsap, and of the wider world.

You can join us for our next Pride celebration on Saturday, August 22nd in Poulsbo. Stay tuned for details and sign-ups.

Social Action

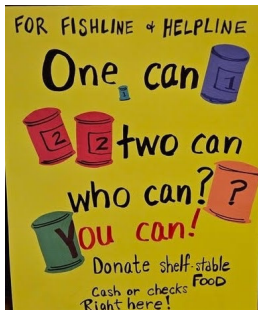


Poulsbo Pride Special Collection

Poulsbo Pride was established in 2023 to create a supportive, organized community in the North Kitsap area for LGBTQ+IA folks. They have grown over the past three years, offering safe spaces for youth and adults in Poulsbo and surrounding communities. This year, their Poulsbo Pride in the Park event will be in **Raab Park on August 22nd**. Cedars will be represented with a booth, and we gladly give to ensure their success.

Questions? See Patricia Erdmann or email: office@cedarsuuchurch.org

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 **July 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](#) 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](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) to email the office, office@cedarsuuchurch.org, to get yours!

Group Meetings

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.

Cedars Music Committee

Friday, July 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, July 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, July 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](#).

League of Women Voters of Kitsap: Bainbridge Island Unit

Saturday, July 25 (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](#).

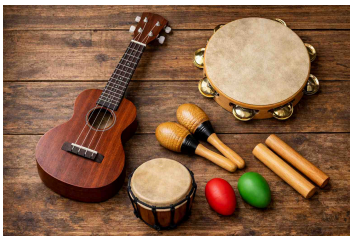
League of Women Voters Website

Ukulele Jam Group

Saturday, July 25 (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 your songs 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](#).



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

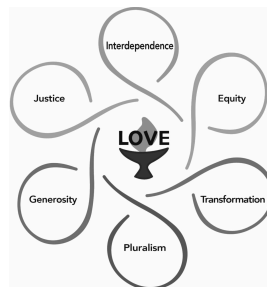
The deadline for submitting content for The Beacon is Monday by the end of the day. If you would like to add an article, [use this link](#) to email your Beacon article to the Cedars office at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

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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