This Week and More at Cedars - November 5, 2026

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

Thu, Nov 5, 2026 at 6:00 AM

CEDARS CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
A Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary

The Beacon

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

Volume 17 Issue 45 November 5, 2026

This Week At Cedars

Election Results and Impacts: Brunch and Banter

Sunday, November 8

10:00 am

The Island School

Hosted by Worship Associates and Board of Trustees

Join Cedars' Worship Associates and Board of Trustees for a warm community potluck brunch and heartfelt conversation about the Election Results and their impacts. We'll gather around good food, gentle company, and thoughtful banter as we reflect on what the outcomes mean for our lives, our community, and the values we share. If possible, please bring a dish to add to the options.

Monday, November 9

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

Tuesday, November 10

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

Music Committee
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Cedars Center

Please see below for more details and use this **link** to find the Cedars calendar**.**



New News

Please note Reverend Margo will be out of the office November 8th-11th at the Pacific Northwest UU Ministers' Professional Days and Retreat.

Hymn of the Month for November: *Somewhere to Begin* by Sara Thomsen

Please follow the link for a video preview: https://youtu.be/qxMF6KlXqdQ?is=DaWhlwA7BT-CX6K0

Volunteer Opportunity at Cedars

We've got a great volunteer opportunity and we're looking for a few more helping hands to join our setup crew. We already have three wonderful volunteers, and adding a couple more will make Sunday mornings run even more smoothly.

You'll arrive around 9:10 am, help set up chairs and tables, enjoy some camaraderie, and be wrapped up by 11:30 am. If you're ready to pitch in and make a difference, please contact **Dave Coursen** at office@cedarsuuchurch.org or call us at the office (206)780-0373.

Message From Reverend Margo

Having Our Voices Heard

Now that the postcard writing, phone banking, rallies, door belling, letters to the editor, and donations are over, all my attention was turned toward election results. As the blue tsunami rolled in, my heart was filled with gratitude for all who voted, spent months organizing in our communities, and those who voted despite concerns of intimidation.

Let us acknowledge and admire the people who voted even though they felt afraid, those who heard about threats of violence, who worried about being discriminated against and harassed at polling places. Let us remember other decades when voting was unsafe and people voted anyway. Let us never forget that for many people voting was a hard-won right in this country. Many people who risked their safety, housing, jobs, and even their lives.

Let us pause to honor the energy and courage of all of us who engaged in the work of free elections. Democracy asks of us to trust that our voices matters and our votes will be counted. It asks that even if we feel afraid, we vote anyway to have faith in the process.

Let us also recognize the work of election workers, those who staff the polls and election officers who later oversee the counting of ballots. For many of them, their task is not over as there will be recounts and likely answering accusations of fraud.

In my own spiritual practices this week, I have been sending love, kindness and peace to all involved in our voting system. Even to those who have political beliefs different from mine. Because I want the outcome to be a peaceful transition of power not a response that the elections were "rigged" unless proven otherwise and for those who are still fearful to experience relief. For a time when we can start to let go of all our anxiety about the election and aftermath and move to solving the problems in our economy and beyond. Let us also take time for rest and celebration that will serve us later as we work across the divides.

Upcoming Sunday Service



Healing: A Special Service of Poetry and Harp Music

Sunday, November 15

10:00 am

The Island School

Reverend Margo Rinehart, Cedars Minister

Liz Motter, Worship Associate

This service is created in the Taize' style of a reading, a musical interlude, and singing of a single phrase. This rhythm is repeated throughout the service to bring us into deep rest and healing after all the work of the summer and fall. Come and engage in this deeply restorative practice.

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.

Social Action

JUUstice Washington and UU Social Action Network Conversations

Tuesday, November 17

6:30 - 8:30 pm

via Zoom

Join JUUstice Washington (the UUA State Action Network) for "Sustaining," the final installment of our social justice Zoom gathering series. This session focuses on deepening community relationships and exploring the collective power that flows from those connections. The conversation will remain open, fluid, and entirely responsive to the themes and ideas that emerge naturally from the group.

For more information, please follow this link:

If you are interested in attending, please let Reverend Margo or Naomi Gary know and they can supply you with the Zoom link at minister@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.

Typically, we provide side dishes or prepare the main dishes on alternating months. You can sign up to help with one or more slots using this link, whatever works for you, and your help will be SUPER APPRECIATED! Our next opportunity is Tuesday, November 24.

For more information about Super Suppers, 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.

Group Meetings

Newer to Cedars Conversation

Sunday, December 6 (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 Women's Covenant Group

Monday, November 9 (ongoing 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 who identify as women and are 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 using this link for more information about the Women's Group.

Cedars Men's Group

Tuesday, November 10 (ongoing the second Tuesday of each month)

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Cedars Center

The Cedars Men's Group welcomes those who identify as men and 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 for Men's Group information using this link.

Cedars Music Committee (ongoing the second Tuesday of each month)

Tuesday, November 10

7:30 pm - 8:30 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 using this link for more information about the Music Committee.

Ukulele Jam Group

Saturday, November 28 (ongoing on the last Saturday of each month)

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Naomi Gary's



A 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 extra Ukes and lots of rhythm instruments to share. Easy to sing along music… everyone is invited to join the Jam!

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.

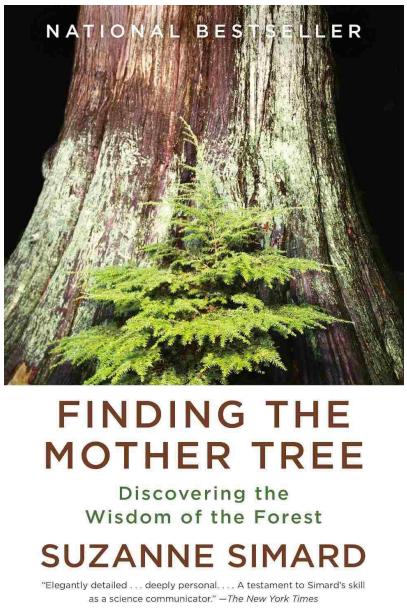
Cedars Book Group

Wednesday, January 21

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

via Zoom

Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest



NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLER • From the world's leading forest ecologist who forever changed how people view trees and their connections to one another and to other living things in the forest—a moving, deeply personal journey of discovery

Suzanne Simard is a pioneer on the frontier of plant communication and intelligence; her TED talks have been viewed by more than 10 million people worldwide.

In this, her first book, now available in paperback, Simard brings us into her world, the intimate world of the trees, in which she brilliantly illuminates the fascinating and vital truths--that trees are not simply the source of timber or pulp, but are a complicated, interdependent circle of life; that forests are social, cooperative creatures connected through underground networks by which trees communicate their vitality and vulnerabilities with communal lives not that different from our own.

Simard writes--in inspiring, illuminating, and accessible ways—how trees, living side by side for hundreds of years, have evolved, how they learn and adapt their behaviors, recognize neighbors, compete and cooperate with one another with sophistication, characteristics ascribed to human intelligence, traits that are the essence of civil societies--and at the center of it all, the Mother Trees: the mysterious, powerful forces that connect and sustain the others that surround them.

More About Cedars

Cedars on Social Media

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

Use this link to listen to our podcast on Spotify.

Use this link to listen to our podcast on Apple Podcast app.

Use this link to listen to our podcast on Amazon Music.

Use this link to listen to our podcast on iHeartRadio.

We are also on Instagram! Use this link to find us on Instagram. 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 conversations group using this link for our Cedars Community Facebook page.



Be sure to “Like” us and “Follow” us on each one!

Use this link to find audio recordings of our Services on our website.

Our Wider Community

League of Women Voters of Kitsap: Bainbridge Island Unit (ongoing the last Saturday of each month with the following exception)

Kitsap Winter Social

Saturday, November 21

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Eagles Nest at Kitsap County Fairgrounds in Bremerton

Bainbridge Island Unit regular November meeting (last Saturday of the month) is cancelled and all are encouraged to participate in the LWV Kitsap Winter Social!

League of Women Voters of Kitsap's annual winter social gathering at Eagles Nest, where we have a potluck and fundraiser. Please RSVP to Debi by Nov 14 secretary@lwv-kitsap.org

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 using this link.

League of Women Voters Website

Beacon Article Deadline

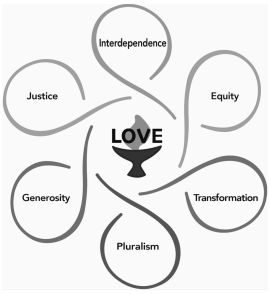
The deadline for submitting content for The Beacon is Monday by the end of the day. If you would like to add an article, use this link to email your Beacon article to the Cedars office at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

UUA News and Information

Use this link or the image to learn more about UUA values, news, and information.

Cedars UU Church is a Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary

View



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

View Map Here

Cedars Minister

Rev. Margo Rinehart, Cedars Minister
Tuesday 9:30 am - 3:00 pm in office hours
(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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