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The Beacon

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



CEDARS CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 15 Issue 50/ December 12, 2024

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This Week At Cedars

Sunday Service, December 15
10:00 am

In the Generous Pocket of Silence

Rev. Emily Melcher, Guest Minister
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate

In this season of ding-a-ling-a-ling, what would it mean for us to find ourselves in what poet Billy Collins calls "the generous pocket of silence"? How might we be truly present in this season of anticipation?

Rev. Emily Melcher is a UU minister, a singer and songwriter, and a UU spiritual director.



Wednesday, December 18

*****Meditation Group**
*****5:30 - 6:30 pm**
*****Cedars Center**
***Please see below for more details

[View detailed calendar here.](#)

Upcoming Service

Sunday Service, December 22
4:00 pm

Blessed Stillness, Sacred Dark

Rev. Jessica Star Rockers, Guest Minister
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

Merry Winter Solstice! Let us gather together with songs, stories and ritual to honor the sacred darkness and prepare ourselves for the return of the sun.

Rev. Jessica Star Rockers is a writer, musician and ordained UU minister. She is currently serving Cedars as a minister of Pastoral Care.



News and Announcements

Board News

Transitional Ministry Study Group Update

The Transitional Ministry Study Group is composed of Herb Hethcote, Jeff Philip, Patricia Erdmann, Liz Motter, and Rod Kempkes. **Please plan to attend an Informational Meeting after the Sunday service at The Island School on Sunday, December 15, approximately 11:15 am.** when the group will provide an update to the congregation on its progress in finding a part-time contract minister.

If you have any questions or feedback that you would like to provide to the study group, please reach out to one of the members of the group or send your comments by email to president@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Childcare for Sunday Services

In order to be more **welcoming to families** with little ones, the Board would like to begin providing **childcare at our Sunday services** as we have done in the past, before the pandemic. The Board is currently investigating options to provide this type of service to families who are interested in attending on Sunday mornings, but for whom it isn't possible without childcare. **If you would like to help with this effort, please reach out to Sandy Spears at sandy.spears@att.net or Rod Kempkes at rdkempkes@gmail.com.**

- Cedars Board of Trustees

Gretchen Yanover Playing at Cedars

This Sunday, December 15, Gretchen Yanover, will once again fill our sanctuary space with the gorgeous sounds of her cello playing. If you've not heard Gretchen play live before, don't miss the chance to hear her playing some very special holiday music!



You can find more information about Gretchen [HERE](#).

Suquamish Community Kitchen



The Suquamish Community Kitchen organizers held a Thank You Dinner on December 2 for their community cooking teams of which Cedars is one of them. Mike Cox, Jeff Philip, Liz Motter, Dean Sampson, Carolyn and Rod Kempkes attended and enjoyed a great “Taco Tuesday” with the Suquamish community.

Donations for Women and Children Experiencing Domestic Violence

Cedars is collecting donations of NEW socks, underwear, and pajamas (all sizes) for women and children. We will also collect VISA, Target, and Safeway gift cards. These items will be donated to the YWCA Alive Shelter, whose vision is dedicated to ensuring the personal safety, rights, welfare, and dignity of those who experience domestic abuse. They also strive to build partnerships and increase community awareness to create positive social change. For more information, visit their website [HERE](#).

The donation box will be available at the Services on December 15 and 22. Or you can drop donations at the Cedars office on Tuesdays through Thursdays from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. For more information, contact **Mike Cox** (206-799-3725).

In addition, our collection on December 8 will be for the YWCA Alive Shelter. Please give generously. If you would like to receive a tax deduction for your donation, please write a check payable to Cedars UU Church with YWCA Alive Shelter in the memo to place in the offering basket or send it to the Cedars Church Office by December 20.

Audio Recordings

Did you miss a Service, or do you want to listen to a great sermon again? The Tech Team is making audio recordings of our Services and has posted several to our website. You can find them in our Service Archive [HERE](#). They are usually uploaded by the Friday following the Service.



Holiday Office Hours

The Cedars Office will be open over the holidays with a modified schedule. Please see below.

December 25 - Office Closed
 December 26 - Office Closed (Available via email)
 January 1 - Office Closed
 January 2 - Office Closed (Available via email)

Ongoing Programs

Meditation Group

Join us for meditation practice on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Cedars Center. We will use mindfulness or Vipassana Meditation audio recordings from the Insight Meditation Center in Redwood City. For questions, please contact **Sandy Spears** at sandy.spears@att.net.

Super Supper and Community Kitchen Sign-Ups

Cedars, in partnership with Kol Shalom as members of the Bainbridge Island Interfaith Council, offers Super Supper dinners on the last Tuesday of each month. We have a regular sign-up for you to use each month to provide various dishes and to assist with setup, serving, and cleanup, so that all in our congregation have a chance to participate. You can find the sign-up for Super Suppers [HERE](#).



Cedars is also now committed to leading the preparation and serving of a free meal to anyone in the community every other month through the Suquamish Community Kitchen. These meals require many helping hands to prepare, serve, and clean up. Please consider signing up [HERE](#) for one of the team member roles on the upcoming date, Wednesday, January 8.

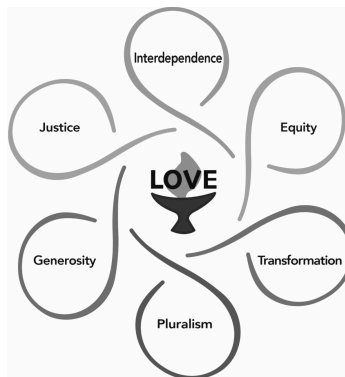
For more information contact **Mike Cox** at 206-799-372 or toxman57@gmail.com or **Rod Kempkes** at rdkempkes@gmail.com.

Cedars Facebook Conversations

If you're on Facebook, there is a new 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 [HERE](#).



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. Go to www.cedarsuuchurch.org. The newest issue is available on the Cedars website under News after 12:00 p.m. on Fridays.

Member Directory

Members and Friends can easily search our online Church Directory for contact information. The link is located under the Connection Tab of the Cedars website and [here](#).

Worship Services

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
The Island School
8553 NE Day Road
Bainbridge Island

Office at Cedars Center

Tuesday - Thursday 9 am - 2 pm
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?
Send it to The Beacon **by Friday at 11:00 a.m. ONE WEEK BEFORE** the next Friday's newsletter (7 days in advance). See our [submission guidelines](#).

[Cedars UU Church \(website\)](#)



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