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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 16 Issue 7/ February 13, 2025

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### This Week At Cedars

**Sunday Service, February 16  
10:00 am**

**Afraid of attending a dying person? Why  
you needn't be**

**Rev. Barbara Gilday, Guest Minister  
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate**



Visiting an elderly uncle in Toronto recently, I was shocked to discover that he was actively dying and none of his 5 children or other family members were present. I realized that in our culture, we have very little information or encouragement to be present in this difficult but transformational and often deeply spiritual time. I will share stories from my work as a chaplain and my personal life that may assist you to be that person when it is called for.

Rev. Barbara Gilday entered professional ministry mid-life, bringing a lifelong passion for inquiry, diversity, and social justice through teaching, cultural exchange, and community support. She is currently exploring ways to find joy and meaning as capacities change while enjoying life with her loving, blended family and energetic rescue dog, Marley.

**Childcare will be offered during this service.** Click [HERE](#) for details.

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**Wednesday, February 19**

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

**Saturday, February 22**

**Spiritual Odyssey Potluck  
6:00 -9:00 pm  
Cedars Center**  
Please see below for more details

[View detailed calendar here.](#)

### Upcoming Service

**Sunday Service, February 23  
10:00 am**

## In the Depths of Darkness: Harnessing Our Strength in Times of Turmoil

**Rev. Kate Lore, Guest Minister**  
**Jenny Weaver, Worship Associate**

Life doesn't always pause when our hearts are heavy, our minds are fractured, or our spirits feel like they're unraveling. This truth is both raw and universal. And yet, we endure. That's the miracle of being human--we endure. Somewhere in the depths of our pain, we find reserves of strength we didn't know we possessed.

Rev. Kate Lore is a Unitarian Universalist minister dedicated to social justice and community ministry. She advocates for marginalized communities, focusing on racial justice, LGBTQ+ rights, and immigration while speaking and writing on spirituality and activism.



**Childcare will be offered during this service.** Click [HERE](#) for details.

## News and Announcements

### Spiritual Odyssey Potluck February 22, 6:00 pm at the Cedars Center

#### "Living in the Middle East: Respecting a Country's Values that Contradict Your Own."

Please come to our next Spiritual Odyssey Potluck when Cedars members Keri Schmit and Rick Blythe will join us from Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, where Keri is teaching middle school English at the American International School and Rick is working remotely.



Please bring a dish to share and your curiosity about life in the Middle East. We'll have our meal from 6:00-7:00 pm, and the Zoom session with Rick and Keri will start at 7:00 pm.

Space is limited at the Cedars Center, so please sign up by clicking [HERE](#).

### Ministerial Search Committee Update

The search committee members achieved a significant milestone in the search process at the end of January by uploading our congregational profile into the UUA's Ministry Search System. This required the assembly of a lot of information about our congregation that prospective ministers who are searching for positions can view to find out more about us and what we're looking for. The search committee will now begin reviewing applications as they come in through the system. Our hope is to find a suitable match with a minister later this spring. If you have any questions about the search process, please reach out to one of the search committee members, Herb Hethcote, Jeff Philip, Patricia Erdmann, Liz Motter, Naomi Gary, or Rod Kempkes.



## Community Events

### Interfaith Advocacy Day

The Faith Action Network organizes an annual Interfaith Advocacy Day with our State legislature at the Washington State Capitol. This event will be held on Thursday, February 20. The Faith Action Network is a multi-faith, non-profit organization through which thousands of people and over 160 faith communities across Washington State partner for the common good.



You can find more information, including registration [HERE](#).

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### IFC Climate Circle: Web of Life Gathering

Please join the Interfaith Climate Circle for our next *Web of Life* gathering, where we will explore our relationship with the Earth and Soils' unique role in healing climate issues.

***For the Love of Earth  
Re-memorbering our Dependence on Soil  
Friday, February 21, 6:30-8:30 pm  
Grace Episcopal Church***

For more information, contact Mike Cox at [toxman57@gmail.com](mailto:toxman57@gmail.com).

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### Spring Clothing Swap

ReFashion will host the Spring Clothing Swap on March 16 from 12:00 -2:30 pm at Filipino American Hall. You can find more information [HERE](#).

## 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](mailto:sandy.spears@att.net).

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### Childcare on Sunday Mornings!

Good news! We're now offering 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!

For details about how childcare will be provided, click [HERE](#).

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### Cedars on Social Media

Cedars now has a podcast! We will be posting our Sunday Services on **Spotify** [HERE](#), on the **Apple Podcast** app [HERE](#), on Amazon Music [HERE](#), and on **iHeartRadio** [HERE](#) for easier access to our audio recordings. Our podcast is called "Sunday Mornings at Cedars."



We are also now on **Instagram**! Find us [HERE](#).

And as usual, find us on our Church **Facebook** page [HERE](#) and our **Community Facebook** page [HERE](#).

**Be sure to "Like" us and "Follow" us on each one!**

You can also still find audio recordings of our Services on our website [HERE](#).

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## 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 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, March 12.

For more information, contact **Mike Cox** at 206-799-3725. or [toxman57@gmail.com](mailto:toxman57@gmail.com) or **Rod Kempkes** at [rdkempkes@gmail.com](mailto:rdkempkes@gmail.com).

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## Beacon Article Deadline

The new deadline for submitting content for The Beacon is now Mondays by the end of the day. If you would like to add an article, please send it to the Cedars Office at [Office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:Office@cedarsuuchurch.org).

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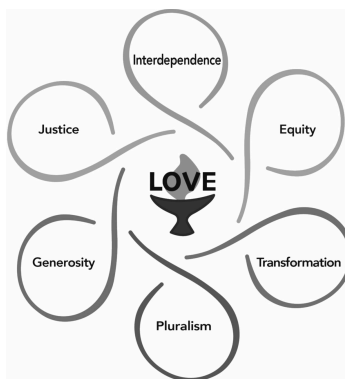
## Cedars Facebook Conversations

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](#).

This week's trivia question: What is the capital of the United Arab Emirates? Click [HERE](#) for the answer.



**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*

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## Print the Beacon Newsletter

The Beacon is available to download and print each week. Go to [www.cedarsuuchurch.org](http://www.cedarsuuchurch.org). The newest issue is available on the Cedars website under News after 12:00 p.m. on Fridays.

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## 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

**Michelle Welsh, Office Administrator**

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



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