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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 6/ February 6, 2025

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This Week At Cedars

Sunday Service, February 9
10:00 am

Small Things

Madeline Ostrander, Guest Speaker
Gregory Cook, Worship Associate

Reflecting on the power of community and the potential for small actions to have larger impacts and ripple effects, and about mindfulness and the importance of paying attention to details.



Madeline Ostrander is a science journalist and writer whose work has appeared in NewYorker.com, The Nation, Sierra magazine, PBS's NOVA Next, Slate, and numerous other outlets. Her reporting on climate change and environmental justice has taken her to locations such as the Alaskan Arctic and the Australian outback. She is the former senior editor of YES! magazine and holds a master's degree in environmental science from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

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

Sunday, February 11

Men's Group
3:00 pm
Cedars Center
Please see below for more details

Wednesday, February 12

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

[View detailed calendar here.](#)

Upcoming Service

Sunday Service, February 9
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 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 mom to a young rescue dog, Marley, who keeps her physically active.

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

News and Announcements

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-memembering our Dependence on Soil
Friday, February 21, 6:30-8:30 pm
Grace Episcopal Church

For more information, you can contact Mike Cox at toxman57@gmail.com.

Ministerial Search Committee Update

The committee members achieved a significant milestone in the search process this week 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.

Sunday Service February 2

On Sunday, February 2, our guest speaker was Kathryn LaFond, who provided her perspective on "Becoming Midwives to a Changing World," and our guest musician was Emily Groff, playing beautiful music on her harp.



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](#).



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](#).

Childcare on Sunday Mornings!

Good news! We are now offering childcare for families with young children during our Sunday services! Thanks to our volunteers, Sandy Spears, Rebecca Kim, Susan Shaffer, and Mary Romeo, along with our newly hired childcare assistant, Marcus Stroman, we are able to offer Sunday morning childcare again after a nearly five-year absence. If a family you know of has not been able to attend any of our Sunday services because of a lack of childcare, please let them know about this new development! We look forward to welcoming some new faces that otherwise have not been able to come and be with us on Sunday mornings!

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

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](#).

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.

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 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.

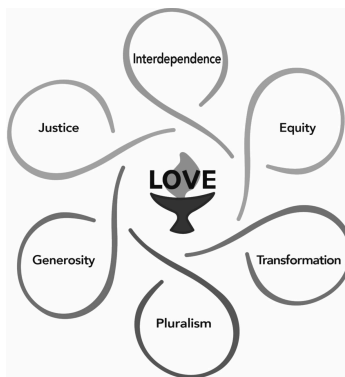
For more information, contact **Mike Cox** at 206-799-3725. or toxman57@gmail.com or **Rod Kempkes** at rdkempkes@gmail.com.

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

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

Would you like to subscribe to The Beacon? Email: beacon@cedarsuuchurch.org

Do you have an article, event, or announcement?

Send it to Office@cedarsuuchurch.org for inclusion in our Thursday newsletter (3 days in advance). See our [submission guidelines](#).

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



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