



Salish Sea Fellowship Community Update



Edition #47

July 8, 2026

WWW.SALISHSEAFELLOWSHIP.ORG

>>> ABOUT US

The Salish Sea Fellowship is a center for liberal religion, providing an independent, educational, spiritual and liberal religious community of mutual support that embraces the traditional *seven principles* of Unitarian Universalism. This is our Community Update for our friends and members. If you have anything you would like to tell the community, please let us know at salishseafellowship@gmail.com.

HOW TO FIND US <<<

We meet in-person at the Community United Methodist Church (CUMC) in Port Hadlock, 130 Church Lane. Click [HERE](#) for our Zoom link for viewing our services, or go to Zoom and enter Meeting ID: 909 702 5487, Passcode: 338490.



POTLUCK PICNIC



July 12, 4 pm

CUMC, 130 Church Lane, Port Hadlock

Please join us on Sunday, July 12, at 4pm at CUMC for a community potluck picnic (weather permitting of course)! We will move our regular potluck outdoors, set up some lawn games, and have a grill or two going if you want to do a little barbecuing! Bring some food & drinks, utensils, and any outdoor games! Let's have some fun together!



Sunday Service

July 26

4:00 PM

CUMC, 130 Church Lane

Join us for our **2nd Annual SSF Favorite Poet Service!** Some of you may be familiar with Joseph Bednarik's format, or remember our delightful service from last summer.

So what's it all about? The "**Favorite Poem**" service is a "regular" service except that poetry readings at intervals replace the sermon.

There are two main ingredients:

1) Personal stories -- the more personal the better

The service should be called "Tell Us A Deep Personal Story About Your Relationship with a Poem." Yes, we are highlighting/honoring a poem, but more importantly we are honoring/celebrating a relationship between a reader and a poem and deepening the congregation's relationship with the reader.

2) The Congregation: Active Listeners

The congregation has a major role as an active participant through the quality of their listening and silent applause response; not just a passive receiver.

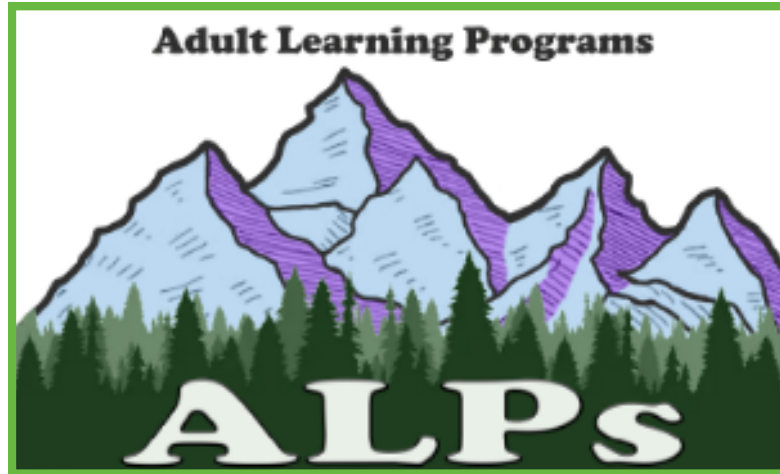
Joseph's two strict rules:

1) Four minutes maximum for a person's entire presentation, poem and personal story. This is basic time management and fairness.

2) Readers are not allowed to present a poem of a partner or close family member (unless they are published), or their own poem. Period.



ALPS NEWS!



The Spring ALPs term has ended, and we wish to thank each of you for making it a success.

- In our 21 offerings this term, we had 209 enrollments, a growth of 44% over Fall 2025!
- We were back to programming in the JC Library after needing to cancel in the fall due to staff shortages.
- We added a new programming venue, Quimper Village, while continuing a program at the Quaker Meeting House.
- We will be back in the PT Library this fall, as they were able to stabilize the foundation, at least for now.
- Thanks to Gary Nelson & Doug Pulling, the Auracast hearing support is now also available through the TV/Monitor in the Library.

It is time to begin thinking about Fall 2026, and the link is now available to submit your proposals. Please click **HERE!** **Proposals are due by August 1.** Come share your talents with our community!



AMERICAN TRANSCENDENTALISM



UU minister emeritus, Barry Andrews, who will be speaking to our Salish Sea Fellowship in November is a scholar on American Transcendentalism. His comments on the concept of "Self Culture" makes us think of our (SSF) ALP's programing. Some food for thought between now and November...

"Self-culture introduced a developmental or progressive view of the spiritual life, replacing the notion of conversion as a single, decisive event with that of religious growth as an ongoing process. However, just as the potential for spiritual growth is limitless, a correspondingly endless self-discipline is necessary to achieve it. Moreover, this self-discipline required that inward spiritual aspirations be manifested in outward ethical behavior. In other words, introspection was necessarily wedded to social action."

UU UNDERWORLD

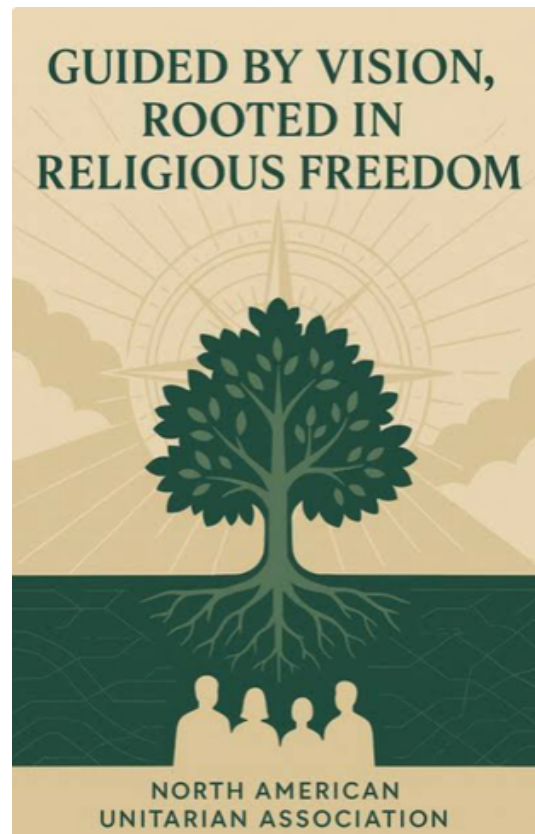


This month's **Uunderworld** includes an article by Nils Pedersen discussing the issues around using the name Unitarian Universalist, as the UUA holds a trademark on the name. You can find the article on page 81 **HERE**.

Also, subscribe to UUUnderWorld **HERE**!



NILS PEDERSEN: NAUA ACADEMY



"What do we need from Liberal Religion in the 21st Century?"

SSF's Board President Nils Pedersen will be one of four panelists on the July NAUA Academy program addressing the question, "What Do We Need from Liberal Religion in the 21st Century?" **Join the Zoom discussion on Tuesday, July 14, 4:30-6 PM, at <https://tinyurl.com/nauaacademy>.** If you miss it, a recording of the session will be available within a couple of days at <https://naunitarians.org/academy/>

COMMUNITY OFFERING

Learn more about
Chetzemoka Trail
HERE!

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Our Sunday Service offering is now taken in support of organizations doing important work in our community. If you know of deserving groups doing good work in our community, please send us your suggestions for such organizations by email to salishseafellowship@gmail.com. Please make sure that these groups are local non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) status.

Community Offering for July/August: **Chetzemoka Interpretative Sign Trail**



The intent of the čičmāhān Trail is to educate the public on the relationship between the S'Klallam people who had lived for hundreds of years at this place, that they called "qatáy" and the European settlers who arrived in Port Townsend in the mid-19th century, intent on making it a key port of trade in the Northwest. Each sign on the trail tells a small part of the story of historic and modern-day S'Klallam people. In many ways, what we know about čičmāhān's life represents the difficulties encountered across this country in the struggle for peaceful coexistence between American Indians and non-Native peoples who found themselves living in the same geographical area with very different cultural values. In the 21st century, the S'Klallam people and residents of Port Townsend and Jefferson County celebrate our differences and build on our ongoing community partnerships and respectful relationships to successfully move forward for the benefit of our future generations. (*From the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's website [HERE.](#)*)

Thank you, Members & Friends! Through your generosity, Salish Sea Fellowship has donated nearly \$10,000 to local nonprofits. Check out the front page of our website for the entire list of incredible nonprofits that helps sustain our community.

**Please send any ideas for future community offering recipients to:
Barbara McCaughin at barbaraj6834@gmail.com**

SUNDAY SERVICES ON ZOOM



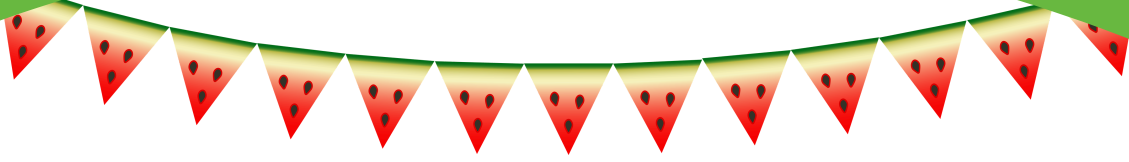
Zoom Conversation Time

After each service, we invite you to stay connected through our post-service conversations, where you can share about your week, reflect on the service, and meet fellow participants who are also joining online. These warm, informal gatherings are led by a zoom host and are meant to create meaningful space beyond the service hours, ensuring that even those participating from home feel truly welcomed and included, regardless of where you might be located. Our Zoom conversation time is designed to offer a friendly pause, cultivating connections where community moves beyond spatial boundaries.

Our zoom host is Gail Sandlin, who has been a member of the Salish Sea Fellowship since its conception. Our zoom link is available **HERE**. After the service ends, stay online if you have time, to either just listen or join in the conversation. The Order of Service is posted by Lily Gold in the Zoom chat just prior to the start of service, so check that out if you would like to follow along with the readings and songs.

We hope to see you at the next service, either at CUMC or online!

SUMMER ACTIVITY DATES



We will be modifying our schedule for the summer months, and will resume our regular programming in September.

Add these dates to your summertime calendar!

August 9: Community Potluck

August 23: Sunday Service featuring our own, Liz Barnes



BENEVOLENCE FUND



Our Fellowship has a 'Benevolence Fund' for the benefit of individuals and families that find themselves in financial difficulties. Its purpose is to meet basic, temporary needs such as food, shelter, clothing, utilities, medical care, etc. This fund is for anyone in need, whether SSF members, friends or the general public of East Jefferson County.

If you or someone you know is in such need, please contact Karen Wamstad, our Caring and Concerns Coordinator, at kjmwamstad@gmail.com. *We belong to each other!*

"Stillness" Gatherings



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Weekly "Stillness" gatherings with Tai Sheridan

Tai's teaching is based on two practices: anchoring in silence and aligning with gravity. Together, they are ways of becoming grounded, present, intimate with reality, and fully yourself. Join this free zoom community for one hour each Tuesday at 5 pm to share meditation and contemplation.

For the zoom link, go to taisheridan.com then click on "Meetings"

MEMBERSHIP



Please welcome Mary Grace Swift of Port Townsend to our membership!

Just as a reminder, here is our commitment to one another when we join:

**We have each separately chosen to be part of an independent community of free faith.
We have organized not only as a religious and charitable institution, but one offering spiritual,
growth oriented and community-building education.**

**We hope to be a center for liberal religion, growing out of unitarian and universalist traditions
while embracing the seven principles of unitarian universalism adopted in 1985.**

**As such, our objectives include the promotion of freedom of faith and the creation of a forum in
which reason will guide religious thought and expression.**

**In the pursuit of this, we will strive for an atmosphere of fellowship and a community of mutual
support.**

**We believe that if we hold each other in community and without judgement, with care and respect
and kindness, there should be no issue of our time that we can not take on.**

You may become a member of the Salish Sea Fellowship by simply filling out the application form [HERE](#), and being approved by the Board. All membership applications have been approved. **All are welcome!**

ASSISTIVE LISTENING AVAILABLE



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We are happy to announce that we have installed an Auracast™ transmitter at the CUMC to support our friends and members with hearing challenges. Those with the latest hearing aids can now receive clear sound broadcasts. We've also procured miniature receivers and neck loops so that those wearing T-coil equipped hearing aids can enjoy Auracast™ broadcasts, as well. Finally, we've purchased headphones equipped with an Auracast™ receiver so those without hearing aids can also enhance their hearing and understanding. Learn more about how Auracast™ may enhance your listening experience at the Salish Sea Fellowship [HERE](#).

Hearing Assistance

We now have Auracast hearing assistance operational in the Sanctuary and on the roll-around HDTV.

If you have Auracast compatible hearing aids, then use your smartphone app to select Auracast Broadcast and then choose:

Auracast - Sanctuary

Or

Auracast - HDTV.

We also have six Auracast receivers that can presently be used in the Sanctuary for those with hearing aids that can receive Telecoil audio. First, choose one of the neckloops in the left drawer next to the AV screen. Then, plug it into a receiver and set your hearing aids to "Telecoil".

If you could benefit from hearing assurance but don't have compatible hearing aids, we also have individual earbuds that also plug into a receiver. The earbuds are free for you to use. After use, take them home and use them again for as many times as they survive. Then just take a new set.

Auracast Compatible Hearing Aids:

(All require a smartphone app)

Belton: [Commence](#), [Envision](#), [Serene](#)

Bernafon: [Encanta](#) (APP version $\geq 1.6.1$)

Cochlear: [Baha 7 Sound Processor](#)

GN: Danalogic Extend

Jabra: Enhance Pro 20, Enhance Pro 30, Enhance Select 500, Enhance Select 700

Nuear: Noble AI 24

Oticon: Intent (firmware $\geq 1.3.0$ & with latest Companion app), Zeal

Philips: Hearlink 9050 (firmware $\geq 1.3.0$)

Resound: Enzo IA, [Nexia](#), [Savi](#), [Vivia](#)

Starkey: Edge AI, Omega AI

Widex: Allure (firmware $\geq 5.1.20$)



SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORS

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♥ SUPPORT ♥



Let's continue to support our hosts, the Community United Methodist Church, as they work to assist our neighbors through their clothing closet, food pantry, soup kitchen, and tiny house community. Together we can make an impact in our community!

RECYCLING AT CUMC



Since the county no longer provides free recycling bins, we ask fellowship members with curbside recycling to take the church's recyclables home for disposal. Kindly inspect the storeroom adjacent to the kitchen, as well as the clearly marked recycling bins located in both the sanctuary and office. This will help us avoid the cost of our own curbside service.

CARING AND CONCERNS TEAM



Breakfast Club: Breakfast Club continues into the summer months! Get together for good friends and lively conversation. Sarah, Karen, and others hang out on Wednesdays at 9:30 at the Bayview. **Join us, friends!**

Judy McCutchen: Our dear friend, Judy McCutchen, has moved to Bellingham to be closer to family. We know Judy will miss her friends at the Salish Sea Fellowship, and we will miss her tremendously. Send Judy a note letting her know she is in our hearts. Her address is: 4415 Columbine St. #306 Bellingham, 98226. Her landline is: 360-671-5965. **Let's flood Judy's mailbox with LOVE!**

GROW TOGETHER: GET INVOLVED

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We are officially TWO YEARS OLD!

We're so thankful to all of our members and friends who have been along with us on this journey. Having a welcoming, supportive place to gather together is such a gift. We all need a soft place to land, especially during these challenging times.

Getting involved in the Salish Sea Fellowship is both easy and rewarding, and there's a role for everyone! Please consider volunteering for one of these support opportunities. Thank you so much. We belong to each other!



Email **salishseafellowship@gmail.com** to get involved today!



ARCHIVE OF SUNDAY SERVICES

If you miss a Sunday Service, don't forget that we have a **Salish Sea Fellowship YouTube Channel** with a full archive of all of our Sunday Services! Access our YouTube Channel [HERE](#), or go through our webpage [HERE](#).



View Doug Rodger's "An Introduction to Salish Sea Fellowship" video [HERE](#)!

Doug's video is a wonderful resource when folks inquire about our sweet little fellowship. Share it with friends and neighbors!

Attention, Home Chefs!

CUMC also runs a weekly soup kitchen, and Salish Sea provides the soup (a gallon of veggie and a gallon with meat) on the third Saturday of the month. If you would like to join the list of folks who provide soup and/or assist with set-up and clean-up in the future, **please contact Kate Madson at kmadson3of9@gmail.com or Kendra Golden at kendrajgolden@gmail.com**. Thank you so much to Kate and Kendra for their dedication to feeding our neighbors.

Let's challenge ourselves to give back to our community as much as possible in 2026!

