



SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR APRIL 2018



Sunday, April 1

This Day - Easter Sunday Service
Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
Joe Moran

Easter is a great time for celebration, and April Fools brings some silliness. Let's look at the clashing of some days while also giving respect to the importance of resurrection.

Music Notes: This day will be celebrated with music about new life in all of it's forms! The Gathering will perform selections by The Beatles and John Denver.

Sunday, April 8

Power and Compassion
Worship Associate

Melissa Jeter
Judy Trautman

This sermon will be about the action of power in our lives and how power can be compassionate. In this sermon, there will be discussion about the types of power we encounter in our lives and frame power as a continuum. Also, this sermon will talk about the function of power in our capacity to address trauma. The power of self-compassion and compassionate actions can heal and sustain us in times of turbulence.

Music Notes: This Sunday we will have Bonnie Rowe playing the piano. Sierra Webb and Melissa Jeter will play guitar for our Special Music.

Sunday, April 15

Morals, Ethics, and Religion
Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
Luanne Billstein

Being better; living right. We'll examine the ways morals and ethics fit into our Unitarian Universalist religion, and how morals, ethics, and religion influence society.

Music Notes: Today's service we will continue to gladden our hearts and recharge our spirits in mid-April with a rousing performance by the Chalice Choir. There have been many inquiries about the Handbell Choir. Today is the day you've been waiting for—the Handbells will ring in the Spring season with two pieces today!

Sunday, April 22

Earth Day and flower communion
Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger and Judy Trautman
Joe Moran

Our annual flower communion will commemorate Earth Day. Bring one flower to church, leave with another, celebrate the beauty of nature, and know that it's our ecological care that will help to continue life on earth. This Green Sanctuary Service will explore how all earth is sacred by reexamining the Green Rule Poster. Flower Communion will follow.

Music Notes: The Gathering will perform a selection by Tom Petty and a traditional folk song. *You belong among the Wildflowers!* Today's service will also feature Lesli McCage, Clarinet, and Bonnie Rowe, Oboe, in a duet for Earth Day. This is because on reflection, these instruments are made of wood! The Combined Choir will sing *The Earth is One*.

Sunday, April 29

Science, Culture, and Idols
Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
Karen Christie

It's been a while since we've had an animal blessing. We'll take advantage of the spring weather, possibly meet outside, and all are invited to bring their animals—in real life or through pictures—to be blessed as we acknowledge the importance of animals in our lives.

Music Notes: Join The Gathering and the Jr Choir in celebrating our best friends -- our pets! Music selections include songs by Cat Stevens, Mountain Man, and Paul McCartney.



Reverend Tim Barger

My April column is focused on the final Sunday of the month, April 29, when we'll have an animal blessing. If the weather cooperates, we'll have our service outside; if not, let's hope that all animals respect the carpet, don't chew on the furniture, and get along with one another. We can also hope that if they're outside, respecting the ground where we stand.

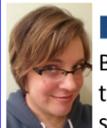
Anyway, it's time to recognize that animals are important to many of us, and to welcome pets into our religious circle for a Sunday. Some congregations have an annual blessing in the fall, oriented to the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. We're having ours in the spring when it's a better time to be outdoors and we get to get outside after a winter of being cooped up.

All animals are invited. We ask that they be under your control, which probably means a leash for dogs and a carrier for most others. Even snakes and (hopefully de-scented) skunks can be among us. And if you want to bring a horse, there's room for a trailer. We hope this will be a fun day, and that once they're blessed, the animals might help us to know our own blessings. And that they deserve a lot of petting in return. Rev. Tim



Terry McCauley, Board President

April. The first full month of spring. Trees and flowers start to bloom and blossom. Color and life come back to nature. People, plants and animals emerge from the cold dark of winter and burst forth into the bright warmth of spring. It is a beautiful time of year. It is a time of year when we can see the diversity in nature, in plants and animals. There are similarities and there are differences. The differences create the diversity and thereby create the beauty. The beauty is in the diversity. We need to begin to see the diversity of everyone. The people of the world, all of humanity, form a beautiful mosaic. If our attention is too close to us we only see the surface differences, but if our focus is outward and expanded, if we step back and look at the bigger picture, get the wider, broader view we see so much beauty . . . it is awe-inspiring! If we truly want to live in peace and harmony in a beautiful world, a dream world where, love is the response to every situation, life is the highest value, equal opportunity is granted to all, judgment does not exist, differences do not produce divisions, there is always enough, suffering is never again ignored, and superiority is abolished then we need to Honor Similarities – Respect Differences – and Celebrate Diversity. Let us do this in our church community, our jobs, our neighborhoods, our families, in our lives. Blessed be. In fellowship, Terry McCauley



Nicole Jonsson, Religious Educator

By the time this newsletter "blurb" is published, our Youth Boston Pilgrimage will almost be over! We fly home on Easter evening. I'm sure we'll be bursting with stories to tell. (Check the church facebook page for photos.) It was truly a community effort to raise the funds for the trip. I cannot thank the First UU enough. It really made my heart swell with love to witness our youth being supported in such a visible way by our congregation. You all helped an experience of a lifetime happen--thank you so very much! In Fellowship, Nicole Jonsson

EGG HUNT

Easter Sunday, April 1st, there will be an egg hunt after service! Kids 12 and under can search for eggs filled with treats, toys, and even money. (Hunt will be held indoors if weather doesn't cooperate.) Egg baskets will be provided.

MUSIC DIRECTOR SEARCH

We've enjoyed the leadership of Bonnie Rowe and Sierra Webb this year as we've been in kind of a musical transition after Gladys Rudolph's retirement. Now it is time to begin a search for a new permanent music director. If you're interested in serving on the search committee for the music director, contact Rev. Tim (minister@utoledo.org).

LFH BLANKET MAKING

There will be an LFH blanket-making workshop on Wednesday, April 25th, in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am. Bring sharp scissors and a smile. Everyone is welcome!

NEW UU CLASSES

The New UU curriculum is designed to help newcomers deepen their connections to their UU Faith. Although we recommend attending all four workshops, we understand that busy schedules do not always allow for that. Upcoming classes are now scheduled: 4/8 Religious Education, 4/22 Governance & Polity, 5/6 Membership. Please RSVP by signing up on the Compass bulletin board outside of Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

KNITTING

Knitting is the first Saturday of each month, October through June, 11am - 4:30-5pm in the Capek Room. Everyone is invited. Bring finger foods to share and provide your own drinks. Questions? Contact cloganmercerc@yahoo.com. See you April 7th!

GARDEN PLOTS

If you or someone you know would like to grow some fresh organic produce, there are a few garden plots available. Talk to Karen Porter for more info: kjport@sbcglobal.net

KNITWITS

After cancellations due to inclement weather in both January and February, knitters were "back at it" with gusto in March, as is evidenced by the accompanying photo. A really good group (and fun bunch) comes together on the second Friday of every month September through June to turn out knitted hats, scarves, and mittens for CSB and LFH. Join us!

KITCHEN USE

There will be a requisition form for any use of the kitchen. This is for any meetings that meet anywhere in the church and use our kitchen for anything. This form will be on the door to the kitchen. It must be put in the back on the door in the designated envelope. We will start using this requisition form due to things missing from the kitchen. Everything will be accounted for on this form. Thank you very much for your cooperation. If you have questions, please ask. This will start 04/01/18. Thank You, Carla LoganMercer, Kitchen Coordinator

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

If you're going to go to the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly, to be held this year in Kansas City June 20-24, please let us know. If you'd like to be a delegate, contact Rev. Tim or Terry McCauley; delegates will be assigned soon.



2018 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Happy Easter!  9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 10:00 am Children's Choir 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Fellowship Hour 12:15 Easter egg hunt 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	2	3 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 7:00 pm Weavers Guild 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice Sanctuary	4 9:30 am Compass Mtg 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	5 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal	6 7:00 pm First Friday Book Club	7 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 11:00 am Knitting/Craft group
8 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 10:00 am Children's Choir 11:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Fellowship Hour 12:15 pm SA Committee Meeting 12:15 pm Social Justice Committee Mtg 1:00 pm New UU Class 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	9	10 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice Sanctuary	11 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	12 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal	13 9:30 am Knit Wits - Fellowship Hall	14 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 1:00 pm Sermon recitals, Adult Preaching Class
15 Styrofoam Collection 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 10:00 am Children's Choir 11:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Fellowship Hour 12:30 pm Security Committee Meeting 12:30 pm Grief Circle Support Group 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	16 9:00 am UU Breakfast (Reynolds Rd Garden Café)	17 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 1:30 pm Chalice Circle 7:00 pm Leadership Dev Meeting 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice Sanctuary	18 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	19 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal	20 6:30 pm Dining for Women NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 10:00 am RE Council Mtg
22 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 10:00 am Children's Choir 11:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm 4th Sunday Potluck 1:00 pm New UU Class 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	23	24 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice Sanctuary	25 9:30 am Blanket Making 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	26 7:00 pm Board Meeting	27 7:00 pm World Dining	28 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group and 1:00 pm Awareness of Special Needs - offsite
29 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 10:00 am Children's Choir 11:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Fellowship Hour 5:00 pm Multi-Faith Universal Worship 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	30	May 1 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice Sanctuary	2 9:30 am Compass Mtg 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	3 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal	4 7:00 pm First Friday Book Club	5 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 11:00 am Knitting/Craft group

MEDITATION GROUP

We invite you to join us at 5:30 pm on Sundays, April 8 and April 22 at the Alzheimer's Association building, 2500 N. Reynolds Road. We will enjoy guided meditation, sit or walk quietly, and share tea and conversation. Explorers, beginners and experienced practitioners: all are welcome and each of us benefits from the energy of others. Meditation helps us to be more present for all that life has to offer. Thich Nhat Hanh reminds us, "Our true happiness comes from being fully conscious in the present moment, aware of our connection to everything else in the universe." Contact Karen at kbchristie@bex.net with any questions.

MULTIFAITH BANQUET

The 17th Annual MultiFaith Banquet: Harmony in Diversity will be Sunday, April 29, 2018, 3 – 7 PM, at St. George's Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral, 3754 Woodley Rd, Toledo, OH 43606. Included in the program will be 3:00 PM – Site Tours or Meditation [optional], a Youth discussion, 4:00 PM – 4:45 - Faith Storytellers. The dinner program starts at 5 PM with prayers, presentation of the 2018 Heroes of Compassion by Rev. Tim and Jewel Barger, a catered meal, and Keynote Speaker, the Rev. Otis Gordon, Jr.: "Building Bridges to Hope in the Faith Communities". Rev Gordon is the Senior Pastor of Warren AME Church. Registration is now open. Tickets \$25 Adult; \$15 Youth/Student 12 – 21. Advanced registration is necessary. Registration closes April 16. After April 16, Ticket prices are \$30 Adult; \$20 Youth, if tickets are still available. The registration link may be found at <http://multifaithcouncil.org/pages/banquet18.pdf>. There is also sponsorship information at <http://multifaithcouncil.org/pages/donorletter18.pdf>

MINI FOOD PANTRY

Help refill our Free Little Pantry out front. We need to refill it several times a week. Can you donate some non-perishable items? Popular foods include peanut butter, jelly, macaroni and cheese, soup, juice boxes, fruit and pudding cups, cereal, granola bars, and tuna, toothpaste, baby shampoo, soap, & feminine hygiene products. Drop off your donations in the bin in the east foyer, give them to Nicole, or put them right into the pantry. This is an great way to help your youngsters connect with the social justice work of our faith. Note the expiration date on the items--**no expired items may be given.**

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER SALE

Order your EXTRA LARGE, beautiful hanging baskets, proceeds benefiting RE youth. All items available for you to pick up at church on Mother's Day, Sunday May 13th. Come to church and get Mom's present all in one step! \$22 per basket (choose when they arrive, no color or flower choice on order form) These very big baskets are gorgeous and full, and will look wonderful hanging on your front porch or backyard patio. Make checks payable to: First Unitarian Church, (RE Flower Sale in memo)

NAMI

May 12th 2018 is the date set for the NAMI Walk of Greater Toledo!! The walk will take place at 10am, with registration at 830am, on the University of Toledo Medical Center Campus. Please send all checks and donations to either 2753 W Central Avenue Toledo Ohio 43606, or online search NAMI WALKS to make a pledge. Get out and walk and support an ever increasingly important cause!!!

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for a REZIST concert Friday May 11th at 7:30 PM at First Unitarian. Roy Zimmerman will sing funny songs about peace and justice. Admission is \$20 or pay what you are able. Enjoy ninety minutes of Roy Zimmerman's original songs, funny and forceful affirmations of peace and social justice.

YOUR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Did you know that you can enter your own financial information for your pledge or donation? Just visit the uutoledo.org website. Click on "Donate/Pledge" on the black menu bar. Then click on the golden button "Online Giving". From there you will be able to enter credit card or bank information securely. Consider using this option for your upcoming 2018/2019 Pledge. If you select to have your pledge withdrawn from your bank account, First Unitarian is not charged fees. Questions? Contact our bookkeeper, Teresa, at: bookkeeper@uutoledo.org

UU MAGAZINE

Are you receiving your copy of the UU World Magazine? If not, contact the office at: Carols@uutoledo.org to make sure you are on the list.

LFH LUNCHEON

The Leading Families Home (formerly FOCUS) fundraiser luncheon is on April 10th from 12-1 at the Park Inn on Summit St. This is always a nice event with an inspiring speaker that has been through the program. If you would like to go to support LFH or to find out more about their programs, talk to Karen Porter.