

SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR DECEMBER 2017



Sunday, December 3

BECOMING Commissioned Lay Ministry & Advent
Worship Associate

Melissa Jeter
Joe Moran

Advent is a time of waiting in darkness. Yet, it is darkness that absorbs heat. And heat that causes transformation. I have been seeking a transformation to a mature faith. A liberal religious faith where we all answer the call of the world's grief. In community, I want to be ready to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly. Transformation to this maturity of faith is, for me, becoming commissioned-lay minister.

Music Notes: Highlights include Sierra Webb singing "Waiting On the World To Change" by John Mayer. Our closing song will be "O Holy Darkness, Loving Womb", words by Jann Aldredge-Clanton, sung to the tune of "O Little Town of Bethlehem".

Sunday, December 10

60 (on aging)
Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
Karen Christie

A personal service on aging, connected to Rev. Tim soon reaching age 60.

Music Notes: Bonnie will bring her oboe and play a medley of blues melodies as a special music soliloquy. The oboe adds an extra pensive sound to the blues. The Gathering will entertain us with "When I'm 64" by The Beatles.

Sunday, December 17

Christmas Music Service and winter solstice
Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
Luanne Billstein

This is a (mostly) music service celebrating the season, featuring our congregation's musicians—Chalice Choir, The Gathering, Handbell Choir, Youth Choir, Bonnie Rowe, Sierra Webb.

Music Notes: You won't want to miss this annual service full of special holiday music. First the Handbell Choir will ring us into the season. Wes Bullock and The Gathering will sing "Solstice is Here." The Chalice Choir will sing several beautiful songs by the English composer John Rutter. We welcome guest pianist Ryan Smith, a fellow UU, who will accompany the choir for this service. Our own Garth Simmons will play a trombone solo for the postlude, accompanied by Bonnie Rowe.

Sunday, December 24

When A Child Is Born (Family Friendly 11 AM)
Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
Sierra Webb

Our morning Christmas Eve service is a family-friendly one that will include child dedications. If you would like to have your child dedicated, contact Rev. Tim.

Music Notes: Bring the family and enjoy singing many of our favorite Christmas carols on this Christmas Eve morning! It's a great way to practice those happy lyrics and let the songs energize your holiday spirit.

Sunday, December 24

Within the Shining of A Star (Candlelight Service 5 PM)
Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
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An evening candlelight service of lessons from the Bible and Beyond and Christmas carols.

Music Notes: The Handbell Choir and Chalice Choir will play and sing music to send you home on Christmas Eve feeling the peace and wonderment of this winter season. "The Christmas Song" will be performed by The Gathering.

Sunday, December 31

Watching (for Watch Night/New Year's Eve)
Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
Luanne Billstein

In many churches, especially African-American ones, Watch Night is a New Year's Eve nighttime service. We'll, our service is in the morning, but we will hear about watching, what's ahead, and what's behind us.

Music Notes: Highlights will be from Sierra Webb and The Gathering performing their New Year's Eve songs for this service.



Reverend Tim Barger

JOINING OUR CHURCH AS A MEMBER

We've been reviewing our membership process, seeing that it can take a long time from expression of interest to signing the membership book. You can review the November newsletter for some words about membership. In the past, we have strongly advised that people interested in membership take the "New UU" classes we offer, before they join. But those classes have taken a long time.

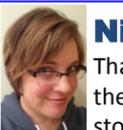
In essence, what we'd like is for you to have a good grasp of what Unitarian Universalism is, and the way our congregation operates—we're the ones who make our church run rather than having a headquarters giving directives. We'll give you a book, The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide, and some pieces about our congregation, to help with the basics. Then after a conversation with the minister to get acquainted and show that this is your religious path, and after you make a pledge in support of the congregation, you'll be eligible to sign the book.

You can take the "New UU" classes before you join, or in your first year as a member. Joining is on your schedule, and take the time you need to be sure that ours is your church and Unitarian Universalism is your faith tradition. We still recommend that you take all of the classes, as you'll learn more about Unitarian Universalism, including how to be more involved with First Unitarian, and church history and government. But we also want you to be a member, and to be active with us and eligible to vote in congregational meetings. So you can join when you're ready and know basic things about Unitarian Universalism. People who have been away from First Unitarian for awhile and let their memberships lapse may rejoin after they pledge, and they can re-sign the membership book. We look forward to your being involved with us, fully. And volunteering to help our committees, operations, and religious education function well. Your Minister, Reverend Tim



Terry McCauley, Board President

December has always been a holy month for me. It's a month of sharing love, family, friendships, peace, forgiveness, cheer, and gift giving and gift receiving. It's a time of celebrating births and deaths of people and nature. I'm learning that December is a holy month for many, many people. At least 7 (there may be more) major religions celebrate holy days in December: Christianity – Christmas, Judaism – Hanukkah, Buddhist – Rohatsu (Bodhi Day), Wiccan/Pagan – Solstice, Islam – Mawlid el-Nabi, Kwanzaa – imani (Swahili for faith) and Zoroastrian – Zarathosht Diso. I love this diversity and I would hope that we all could embrace it. I believe our Unitarian Universalist principles 1,3,4,6 and 7 speak to this. You may have seen this quote, which seems to fit us UU's: "Why do I wish people 'Happy Holidays'? Because from Nov.1 to Jan.15 there are approximately 29 holidays observed by 7 of the world's major religions and I don't think mine are the only ones that count." I believe all of the world's major religions promote love and peace. Let all of us do that too. Let's be love and peace and then share ourselves with everyone we meet. Let's make this December and all of next year a holy time filled with love and peace. It's what the world needs now more than ever. In love, peace and fellowship, Terry McCauley



Nicole Jonsson, Religious Educator

Thank you very much to the folks who have donated items to keep our Little Free Pantry (out in front of the building) stocked. The kids are learning a valuable lesson about the importance of giving, and the pantry strengthens First UU Toledo's ties to the community. Please don't stop giving! The need is greater than you might think. We are restocking the shelves several times a week! Popular items include peanut butter, soups, ready-to-eat pudding, applesauce, and granola bars. Consider also donating baby shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, and feminine hygiene products--none of these items can be purchased with Food Stamps. In Fellowship, Nicole Jonsson

LFH HOLIDAY

Sunday, December 3, is the deadline for bringing gifts. Place them under the tree in the Sanctuary. Immediately following the service, eight to ten volunteers will be needed to sort, inventory, and bag the gifts. Delivery will be made to the LFH office during the week by the LFH Elves. Anyone who missed out on taking a gift tag can still participate by making a donation to be used for Kroger gift cards and hygiene baskets. Simply include "LFH Holiday" on the memo line of a check or give cash directly to Mary Souther.

NEW UU

The Compass Hospitality and Membership committee will hold membership classes again beginning in January. In the meantime, we encourage you to jump right in and attend any meetings and/or events that peak your interest. Sign up for your UU-FYI and follow the church Facebook events page. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway near the kitchen for anyone interested in attending The New UU classes. This year we will host a four-part series. We will meet from 1pm to 2:30 after potluck on Sundays. If you are interested in learning about becoming a member and/or sharing your experiences of membership, please save the following dates on your calendar: January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22.

SUPPRT OHIO IPL

The environmental organization Ohio Interfaith Power and Light has been very helpful in our congregations journey to become more sustainable. Now we have a chance to support Ohio IPL. They are having a raffle for a residential solar installation by Third Sun Solar (must be in Ohio). Only 1500 tickets will be sold; if fewer than 1,000 are sold, it will become a 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$30. Raffle sales begin Nov. 28th; the drawing will take place Earth Day weekend, 2018. The winner may apply the \$10,000 credit toward the purchase of a larger system, or transfer it to another residence within Ohio. For more information, see the information sheet on the Green Sanctuary bulletin board, or talk to Karen Porter.

WORLD DINING

Join us for dinner Friday December 1st at Zia's. RSVP to Kathy (kdeanda@att.net) so that she can make reservations, share locations, and for additional information.



2017 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00 pm First Friday Book Club 7:00 pm World Dining	2 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 11:00 am Knitting/Craft group
3 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 Grounds Fall Clean-up 12:30 pm SA Committee Meeting 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	4	5 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 7:00 pm Toledo Area Weavers Guild 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice	6 9:30 am Compass Mtg 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	7 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal	8 9:30 am Knit Wits - Fellowship Hall	9 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group
10 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 Social Justice Committee Mtg 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	11 6:00 pm The Gathering Planning Mtg - off site 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice Sanctuary	12 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting	13 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	14 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal	15 6:30 pm Dining for Women	16 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 10:00 am RE Council Mtg
17 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 12:30 pm Grief Circle Support Group 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	18 9:00 am UU Breakfast (Reynolds Rd Garden Café) 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice Sanctuary	19 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 1:30 pm Chalice Circle 7:00 pm Leadership Dev Meeting	20 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal	22	23 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 1:00 pm Awareness of Special Needs - offsite
24 Christmas Eve 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 10:00 am Children's Choir 11:00 am Worship Service 5:00 pm Worship Service 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	25 Christmas 	26 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting	27 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	28 7:00 pm Board Meeting	29 7:00 pm First Friday Book Club	30 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group
31 New Year's Eve 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 10:00 am Children's Choir 11:00 am Worship Service 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA 	HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS The church office will be closed December 22nd thru December 27th, and January 1st thru January 5 in honor of the holidays. Wishing you and yours the merriest of holidays.					

MEDITATION GROUP
We invite you to join us at 5:30 pm on Sunday, Dec. 10 at the Alzheimer's Association building at 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. In the event of inclement weather, please check with Karen before heading out. Please note that we will NOT be meeting on Dec. 24, Christmas Eve.

OFFERINGS
The offering on December 3rd is designated to go to the UUA Disaster Fund, which started as hurricane relief and has been expanded into an ongoing fund. All undesignated offerings will go to that fund. Designated is such things as pledge payments and other memo lines. The Christmas Eve offerings will go to the minister's discretionary fund, which is intended to help members and other people who ask for help. The minister's fund is being shifted from a \$500 budget item to the Christmas collection, so we're asking for great generosity.

BATTERY RECYCLING
Batteries can be taken to Lourdes University for recycling (they take them to the Lambertville Kroger battery recycling drop-off). Most batteries can be 100% recycled. We will collect batteries at church, or you can drop them off at Lourdes or the Lambertville Kroger yourself. There will be a container on the shelf on top of the coat rack marked "Battery Recycling". See the flyer on the Green Sanctuary bulletin board for the list of batteries they accept and for the long list of materials that can be separated out of the batteries.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE ACT
Help get the word out! The open enrollment period is now through December 15th. Enroll, or obtain more information, at www.healthcare.gov.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILD DEDICATIONS
At our 11 am service on Christmas Eve, we'll be having child dedications. Some families have contacted me to express their interest, and more are welcome to take part. In Unitarian Universalism, baptism is not a common practice, and instead many UU congregations have child dedications instead, in which we honor the new person (however old that newness is), formally recognize their given name, and apply some salt water in a ritual. Salt water is the life of this world, and that is fitting as it includes religious and secular symbolism, rather than holy water of particular religions. We welcome the child into our community and send our best wishes for a good life. Please contact Rev. Tim (revtim@uutoledo.org or 419-381-6999, ext, 202) if you're interested in having a child dedicated—on Christmas Eve or another service in the year. There are no age limits, but if you're above 18, it would probably happen on another day than December 24. Those who have already let me know, I'll have some paperwork for you, so if you don't hear from me soon, please be in touch.

PERSONAL PREACHING CLASS
From 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, January 17 through March 14 (not including Valentine's Day), Rev. Tim will offer a preaching class. Whether you'd like to offer a sermon on a Sunday morning when Rev. Tim or our Certified Lay Ministry candidates, Melissa Jeter and David Strickler, are not in the pulpit, or you just want to learn more about how to make a sermon, this class will help you to develop sermons—writing and public speaking. Then on Saturday, April 14, the students can return for a sermon festival, open to the public, showing what they've learned by preaching it. A signup sheet will be posted outside the church office. There is no cost for the class, but I will recommend purchase of or access to one book, \$14, published by Skinner House Books. If you have questions, contact Rev. Tim (revtim@uutoledo.org or 419-381-6999, ext. 202).

POINSETTIAS
Thank you for supporting our Youth Christmas plant sale! All items should be picked up at church Thursday December 7th between 12 and 1 PM or after service on Sunday December 10th. Thank you to those who donated flowers for the altar. After Christmas, your donation of altar flowers will be delivered to an area nursing home to brighten their winter days.

POST-HOLIDAY BAZAAR SALES
Check out what items are left now through Sunday, December 10! Buy something to boost the bottom line after service. Thanks to all who made this bazaar a great success! JuliaFMc@aol.com

NEW BOOKKEEPER
Please welcome Teresa Langenderfer, our new Bookkeeper. She has been training with Laura, who will be leaving us soon. Teresa can be reached at: bookkeeper@uutoledo.org. All questions about pledges or other financial matters should be directed to her. She will work in the office one day a week, as Laura did.