



SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR DECEMBER 2018



Sunday, December 2

Being Light in a Heavy World

Worship Associate

Melissa Jeter

Terry McCauley

Everyday we experience, consume, and participate in stories, narratives, and philosophies that shape our perception of the world. There are also stories that we have held sacred because they hold truths about Being that only makes sense through living the experience. How can these stories empower us when we encounter interpersonal violence and abuse of power? What kind of world could we create by Being Light in a Heavy World.

Sunday, December 9

The X in Xmas

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Karen Christie

Rev. Tim will talk about the X abbreviation and why it's appropriate shorthand at holiday time. He might also have a few words about the so-called War on Christmas.

Sunday, December 16

All Music Service

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Luanne Billstein

Even though our music program hasn't been in normal operation this year, we can still have a less-than-traditional all music service. Caroling in the church!

Sunday, December 23

Gifts and Grievances

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Melissa Jeter

Gratitude from giving and getting gifts is one thread for the eve of Christmas Eve sermon. The other is the string of December holidays, with attention to December 23 being the day for the invented holiday of Festivus, which emphasizes an "airing of grievances." December 23 also is the day for HumanLight, a holiday invented by a group of humanists.

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Melissa Jeter

A "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." Watchman Tell Us of the Night." "Do You Hear What I Hear?" "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear." Those are all gifts for Christmas written by Unitarians. As is "A Christmas Carol." Our 5 pm service on Christmas Eve, Monday December 24, will focus on Unitarians who, in a way, have become part of the season with what they gave to Christmas culture. Such as the Follens, who brought the Christmas tree inside in America. We'll also have the traditional "Silent Night" candlelight closing. Please join us.

Sunday, December 30

Countdown

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Melissa Jeter

On the next to last day of the year, we're kind of done with 2018 and are about to begin the countdown to 2019. What was worth counting in the year just ending, and what might we count down to?



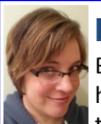
Reverend Tim Barger - IF YOU WANT TO GIVE MONEY

It's December, giving season for those of us in the presents-for-Christmas mode and for people and their organizations looking to off-load cash or zero out, in some way, at the end of the year. So I'm going to be a bit crass and give suggestions for your monetary support of Unitarian Universalism. First, there's our congregation. An increase on your existing annual pledge or a one-time "bonus" would help, as would a larger pledge for the coming year as we've already started the 2019-2020 stewardship campaign. Most of you know the way we struggled to raise enough commitments at canvass time for this year to fit a tightened budget; an extra donation, as well as your putting some loose change and extra folding money into the collection plate on a Sunday, will help. I'll also add the personal request for the Minister's Discretionary Fund, which comes primarily from the collection plate during Christmas week. That's the account that I use to help people in need and to assist congregants with some church-connected activities, like attending a General Assembly or their fund-raising for a project First Unitarian supports. The discretionary fund isn't large enough to pay multiple bills for someone or help with a month's rent, but the larger it is, the more ways it can be used, for people in our congregation and who come to our door with a need. You could give to Unitarian Universalism on the regional, national, and international levels, and to Unitarian Universalist organizations with focused activities. One aspect, tied to our pledges, is the dues for the Central East Region and the Unitarian Universalist Association; when you pay those over and above your monthly pledge, we're better able to balance our books. Consider giving to Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio, to the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, and to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. And besides UUSC, there's the jointly operated UUSC/UUA Disaster Relief Fund that has become year-round rather than activated just for selected natural disasters. If you're book shopping, check out the Beacon Press and Skinner House Books imprints, as those are owned by the UUA. If you have a particular theological path, like I do as a humanist, there is probably a Unitarian Universalist group that promotes it. I support the Unitarian Universalist Humanist Association. We have people who have joined the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans. There are also Christian, Buddhist, and Jewish Unitarian Universalist groups. You can go to uua.org/giving and get more suggestions for where to make donations for our religious work. Or talk to me about how your interests might be furthered with Unitarian Universalist donations. And give to your own causes, outside of our faith. Have good holidays. Thanks for giving. In Fellowship, Rev. Tim



Terry McCauley, Board President

DECEMBER – This month the most well known and celebrated holiday is Christmas. Regardless of your religious belief or lack of religious belief I am of the opinion that you can enjoy and really celebrate the Christmas holiday. What is the real meaning of Christmas? What is Christmas all about? It's about Peace: living in peace, promoting peace, being a peacemaker and bringing peace to all those around you. It's about Giving: not only tangible gifts but, your time and talent too; along with encouragement, gratitude and compassion. It's about Sharing; whatever you have, be it little or much; spreading good will and cheer. It's about Caring and Reaching Out; not only to loved ones but strangers as well. It's about Magic; there is always Magic at Christmas: unexpected, unexplained, and unusual. You may have to look for it but it is there. Always. It comes from the peace, joy and love that is the season. And ultimately Love is what Christmas is all about: unconditional, unasked for and freely given and shared. So celebrate the season, celebrate the peace, joy and love that is Christmas and experience the Magic! Merry Christmas everyone! In Fellowship, Terry M.



Nicole Jonsson, Religious Educator

Being part of the congregation helps us grow in being in community. Our membership age span ranges from the newly born to congregants in their 90's! What a blessing to have the wisdom of our church elders and the fresh perspectives of our younger UU's. Some of our members use assistance like canes, walkers, and wheelchairs to move through the building. Our hallways can be crowded and fraught with tripping hazards and a simple fall could easily break bones. Rev. Tim and I would like to ask our Beloved Community to help keep the halls and rooms safe. If you see a person running, gently ask them to slow down and remind them how easily accidents could happen. If needed, ask their adult to help. This is all of our work. Families, we know our youngsters love to run and play and it gives us joy to see their enthusiasm. They are the lifeblood and future of our faith, and helping you lets us model how to care for the vulnerable of our Beloved Community. A lesson plan is in the works to aid our younger UU's in understanding the "why" of no running in the building. If you have thoughts or suggestions, they are most welcome! In Fellowship, Nicole Jonsson

SAVEAROUND COUPON BOOKS

2019 SaveAround coupon books are now on sale after service on Sundays or any time that the church office is open. The books cost \$25 and have hundreds of dollars worth of coupon savings. This fundraiser supports our general fund. The church will receive 50% profit. Coupons include many local restaurants, retail stores, services, recreation, and entertainment. Take a look at all of the great coupon savings in the book. Makes a great gift for someone too!

KNITWITS

The second Friday of every month at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall, KnitWits will continue to knit, crochet, or make 8x8 squares for a blanket. Knitting 8x8 inch garter-stitch squares of any color of washable yarn is still happening. Our goal is 81 squares for an afghan to be auctioned this coming spring in support of our church. Join us December 14th!

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed in honor of the Christmas holidays from December 24th through January 2nd. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

CHRISTMAS COOKIES

First Unitarian's holiday tradition of cookies after Christmas Eve service will continue this year thanks to Kristin Olson's volunteer efforts. Contact Kristin if you would like to help. Please bring your cookie donations, with a written recipe or list of ingredients, to Kristin in the kitchen before service and enjoy the cookie celebration in Fellowship Hour afterward.

WINDOW TO THE SOUL BOOK EXCHANGE

Tree of Life CUUPS is sponsoring Window to the Soul, which is a book exchange everyone, even children can participate in. There will be a container to collect the wrapped books and on December 16th the books will be passed out. Contact Sandy Zintz at motherwolf86@gmail.com, with questions.

YULE CELEBRATION

Tree of Life CUUPS invites you to our 1st Yule Celebration on December 22 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a potluck, music, crafts and other activities. We will be honoring some Norse traditions, however, please feel free to bring your own Yule traditions to share. If you have any questions, contact Sandy Zintz by emailing motherwolf86@gmail.com.

NEW UU WORKSHOPS

The New UU workshops will resume in January. If you are newer to our church and/or curious about what it takes to belong, please plan to attend. We will meet at 1pm in the Youth Room. Topics are: January 6th-The philosophy of religious education with Kristin Olson, January 13th-Polity with Melissa Jeter, January 27th-Membership with Melanie Christiansen. Please RSVP to Melanie Christiansen at lanieleec@yahoo.com so that we can be sure to have enough materials available for everyone.

DECEMBER 2018 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 11:15 am Fiberwork Orphans knitters and crafters 12:00 pm Town Hall Mtg
2 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 10:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:00 pm Fellowship Hour 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	3 Hanukkah 	4 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 2:00 pm Tree of Life CUUPS Chapter Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Sagan Room	5 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day 7:00 pm First Friday Book Club 	8 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 12:00 pm Secular Humanists of Western Lake Erie 1:00 pm Ullman Family Memorial Service
9 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 10:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	10 6:00 pm Universal Worship - Hindu Temple & Heritage Hall	11 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Sagan Room	12 1:30 pm Chalice Circle 6:30 pm Tree of Life CUUPS Chapter Mtg 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	13	14 9:30 am Knit Wits - Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm Family Fun Night	15 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 10:00 am RE Council Mtg
16 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Combined Spiritual Adventures Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:00 pm Fellowship Hour 12:30 pm Grief Circle Support Group 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	17 9:30 am UU Breakfast (Reynolds Rd Garden Café)	18 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Sagan Room 7:00 pm Chalice Circle	19 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 Winter Solstice 	22 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group and 1:00 pm Awareness of Special Needs - offsite 6:00 pm CUUPS Yule Celebration
23 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Combined Spiritual Adventures Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:00 pm Fourth Sunday Potluck 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	24 Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas 	26 Kwanzaa 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group 	27	28	29 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group
30 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Combined Spiritual Adventures Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	31 New Year's Eve 	CHRISTMAS DAY OPEN HOUSE Christmas Open House for Families and Multi Faith Toledo - Dec. 25 from 1pm - ??? (8, 9, 10). Potluck meal followed by board games and crafts. This will be for people who don't have families to go to, for families that want to gather to have fun together, for international students who are not going home for the holidays, etc. Open to all people of all faiths or no faith to come together for food and fun. Idea conceived by Abigail Humphreys, coordinated by Terry McCauley. RSVP to Terry, terrymcc1@yahoo.com.				

MEDITATION

We invite you to join us at 5:30 pm on Sundays, Dec. 9 and Dec. 23, at 2500 N. Reynolds Road (corner of Pickfair and N. Reynolds) which houses MemoryLane Care Services. 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. The MultiFaith Meditation Center in the Carl Sagan room is now open. Please join us for meditation on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30PM. We will not meet on Tuesday, Dec. 25. All are invited and we will offer meditation instructions and guidance for beginners. Periodically, members of the multifaith community will offer a meditation/spiritual practice from their faith. We will all be enriched by these diverse practices. You are welcome to use this beautiful space anytime the church is open. 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 your email or contact Karen before heading out.

MINI FOOD PANTRY

Please remember to bring non-perishable food items to be placed in the Little Pantry. It gets a lot of use. Place items in the designated bin in the back foyer or directly in the pantry. Hunger is worse in the cold weather. Let's try to share as we can. 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 a 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.**

PLAY FOR US ON DECEMBER 16 - SLOTS STILL OPEN

Our annual all-music service will happen on December 16, even though our choir hasn't been active. This year, we're planning to have a showcase of our members--you--in performance. If you, as solo, with friends, an ensemble, or even with a complete group or "instant choir," would like to play for the congregation in the 11 am service on December 16, contact Rev. Tim and sign up at the bulletin board outside the church office or on the church Facebook group posting about the musicians' call. If you need an accompanist, please make arrangements as we don't have a regular church musician at this time. Deadline to get on the list is December 2 coffee hour as we need time to put the order of service together.

CHILD DEDICATIONS

Are you interested in having your child dedicated in our congregation? First Unitarian has a tradition of celebrating children in that way during Christmas week. If parents would like to have their kid or kids dedicated during our 11 am Sunday service on December 23, contact Rev. Tim.

CHOCOLATE CANDY BARS

We have World's Finest Chocolate Bars for sale. The candy bars will be available after service and anytime that the church office is open. Only a \$1.00! Makes great stocking stuffers!

BUILDING-SHIPS

Being part of a vibrant community helps establish important support in our lives and the lives of those we reach out to...for the hard times and for good times. The newly established fall Pledge Drive for 2019-2020 has set sail. Please pick up your pledge form at church. Watch the fish in our Sea of Giving grow.

CRAFT SATURDAY

Fiberwork Orphans are a knitting group but it is open for all crafters. We meet at First Unitarian Church every first Saturday of the month, in the Capek room, which is the door at church across from the garage. Anyone with any craft can join us. We each bring a finger food to pass, but if you don't have anything, don't worry; there is always enough to share. We donate a dollar each, to the church. The time is 11-5. Join us December 1st and January 5th.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Family Fun Night takes place on the 2nd Friday evening of each month from 6pm-8pm. Compass invites families of all shapes to attend and participate. On December 14, we will decorate holiday ornaments! Bring scraps of colorful wrapping paper and string (please, no glitter!). Compass will supply ornaments, glue, and mod-podge. Not into crafts? bring a board game to share or start a sing-a-long. The goals are friends, fun, and fellowship. It's a night to relax and have fun doing whatever you want. All ages welcome, with or without family in tow. Last month we had 29 folks aged one year old to 75! If you want, bring a dish to pass, games, sewing projects, conversation or just your smile. Chickens not allowed!

DECEMBER BREAK

There will be no World Dining, LFH blanket making, and Dining for Women in December. The new year for Dining for Women will start with a Friday, January 18th meeting.