

SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR FEBRUARY 2017



Sunday, February 5

"Holy Toledo!"

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Joe Moran

Reverend Tim's first sermon as the called, settled, full-time minister.

Music Notes: We step into a new month with Mark Hayes' prelude inspired by the good old hymn, "Bring, O Morn, Thy Music." Douglas Wagner's "An Instrument of Peace" sets to music the words of the famous prayer attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi.

Sunday, February 12

"Inspired by Lincoln"

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Luanne Billstein

It's stewardship time, and we'll have some inspiration from Lincoln and another man born the same day, Charles Darwin, to talk about the future of First Unitarian and the needed financial support from Toledo Unitarians.

Music Notes: This morning's music is quite eclectic, starting with John Barr's voluntary inspired by the hymn, "Come Down, O Love Divine," originally composed in Latin possibly by Archbishop of Canterbury, Stephen Langton (d. 1228), and later translated into English by nineteenth author, Richard Frederick Littledale. From that opening we jump into contemporary music with the Chalice Choir's anthem, "Seasons of Love," from the musical "Rent," and an offertory piece by The Gathering, titled "Charlie" (a song about Charles Darwin), composed by Abbott, Ferguson, Watts, and Whalley (Chumbawumba). In honor of the sermon theme and the life of Abraham Lincoln, we close with John Carter's take on the famous Civil War song, "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory."

Sunday, February 19

"The Bleak Midwinter"

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Terry McCauley

There's a Christmas carol, with the line "snow on snow on snow," that might feel better placed in February. We'll sing the carol and Rev. Tim will speak about midwinter--with or without the "bleak."

Music Notes: The Chalice Choir's anthem, Douglas Wagner's "Winter Wind," uses a lovely, lyrical melody from Sergei Rachmoninoff to help us reflect on the beauty of winter. James Mansfield's "Serenity" also puts us in a reflective mood during the offering. Fenton Groden provides both the prelude and postlude.

Saturday, February 26

"Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning"

Worship Associate

Amie Brodie, Karen Christie, Terry McCauley

Lynn Lyle

Three voices from our congregation will share their Pagan, Christian, and Buddhist beliefs and practices that guide and illumine their UU lives. We welcome Amie Brodie, Terry McCauley, and Karen Christie to our pulpit this morning. "The living tradition we share draws from many sources," according to Singing the Living Tradition, including "wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life."

Music Notes: In keeping with today's service theme of the religious commitments of three First Unitarians, the Chalice Choir's anthem is Gordon Young's musical setting of George Herbert's prayer poem, "Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life." The Gathering's offertory gets to the heart of all religions with "Let the Mystery Be." The service begins with a serene handbell piece, "Meditation in F."



Terry Acocks, Board President

This month we welcome the beginning of Reverend Tim's parish ministry with us. This is a joyful beginning. We are fortunate that Reverend Tim knows us well just as we know him from his prior role as our community minister and his voluntary service during our time of being lay-led. Together we will move ahead in the life of our church through expected and unexpected events. We will also take advantage of a Start Up opportunity offered by Reverend Joan Van Beceleare, our primary UUA contact for Central East Region. This spring, she will assist Reverend Tim, and the current and incoming Board to address our roles in shared ministry, clarifying areas of responsibility and specifics of how we will work together effectively. This will help us build on our cooperation of the last year and support future shared ministry and effective governance. On a personal note, I could not be happier as Reverend Tim begins. My experience as president working with him for the last 14 months has been open, humane, rewarding, conciliatory, respectful, humorous and effective. We are indeed fortunate.

In Fellowship, Terry Acocks



Reverend Tim Barger

It seemed a long time coming, but February is here and I'm now official as the called, settled, full-time minister of First Unitarian Church of Toledo. Here's the plan to carry us into the next church year: Gear up, rest up, fire up.

Over the spring, we'll be gearing up, which means figuring out priorities, what we need to make them happen, and setting up the structure to support them. Gearing up includes our annual stewardship drive, and I'll be speaking stewardship in the Feb. 12 Sunday service. Please be there if you can, and start thinking now about increasing your pledge, if that is manageable, to help First Unitarian plan ahead.

Gearing up also includes covenants--we'll be making a lot of those. Covenants between the minister and the board, the minister and the staff, the minister and the congregation. Covenants the congregation makes for the church as a whole. And private covenants. I'll make March a covenant month for my speaking topics so we can know better the meaning and intentions of being in covenanted relationships with people, positions, and institutions. February is still orientation time for me, getting used to the new work.

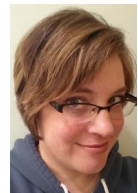
After spring, this year we'll keep the summer tradition of slowing down some--rest up to generate fresh energy, take time to relax, maybe a bit more planning than doing during the typical vacation period. We'll be more used to one another and figuring out our ways of work then, and we can start to look ahead together.

Then in the fall, to use words of motivation from President Obama, we'll be fired up, ready to go. We'll have some plans in place to make a fresh start of doing church in the building, in the community, and online. People will be looking at what Toledo Unitarians are doing. Let's get ready.

Thanks for calling me to be your minister. If you'd like to make an appointment to sit and talk, please be in touch.

Your minister,

Reverend Tim



Nicole Jonsson, Acting Religious Educator (ARE)

February is a month we celebrate all kinds of love. Love for our sweethearts, our families, our friends and communities. We show our younger UU's the love we have by the social justice we work for in our world. It can be hard to send loving kindness to people who think differently than ourselves. Our principles call us to do it anyway. Resist, be firm in what we know to be right and just, but also be loving. After all, we are standing on the side of love.

In Fellowship, Nicole Jonsson, Acting Religious Educator

FOCUS BLANKET MAKING

Let's keep them coming! --blankets that is. There will be a FOCUS blanket-making workshop on Wednesday, February 22 at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Bring sharp scissors!

COMMON READS

Join us for Common Reads with Melissa Jeter, Saturday February 25 at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. The book will be "Just Mercy; A Story of Justice and Redemption" by Bryan Stevenson.

DOOR CODE CHANGE

Starting Sunday, February 12, the west entrance door code will be changed. If you are a code holder and need access to the church through the locked west entrance for activities, please see Marsha Gamble on Sunday, January 29, February 5 or February 12. We have had numerous false alarms and two broken keys so we are doing a brief refresher course at the same time you get the new code. Also, please do not teach other people the code. We want to be sure all code holders receive the correct and complete training. We're happy the church is being used but when there is an alarm, if we (Phil Teitlebaum, Jarvis or Marsha Gamble) cannot figure out why the alarm was tripped, we have to make a trip in to the church (day or night), walk through and make sure nothing has been tampered with. The problem almost always is that a user did not follow the procedure or may not have known the procedure. Please remember to sign in on the clip board if you enter the church at a time when the administrator is not there.

Thank you so much for your help. Marsha, Jarvis and Phil

PLEASE SIGN IN

If you happen to come into the church during non-business hours, or at a time other than a regularly scheduled meeting or event, please take a moment and use the sign in sheet above the alarm to let us know that you were here, so that we may track church usage.

FLOWER DEDICATION

Celebrate a special event in your life. Dedicate or provide the chancel flowers for a Sunday service. Contact Ann Strickler at: adstrickler@sbcglobal.net or 419.536.3747.



2017 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Presidents Day			1 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	2 Ground Hog Day 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal	3 7:00 pm First Friday Book Club	4 9:00 am Social Action Sat. 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group
5 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Adventures Spiritual Growth 11:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm RE Fellowship and Bake Sale 12:15 pm Leadership Dev Committee 12:15 pm Committee Shared Ministry 12:15 pm Strategic Planning Committee 1:00 pm Family Board Game Playing 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	6 7:00 pm What Is Poverty?	7 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 1:30 Chalice Circle 7:00 pm Weavers Guild 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice Sanctuary	8 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	9 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Leadership Development Committee Workshop	10 9:30 am Knit Wits - Fellowship Hall	11 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 12:00 pm Leadership Development Committee Workshop 7:00 pm Valentine's Party
12 Styrofoam Collection 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Adventures Spiritual Growth 11:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Social Justice Committee 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	13	14 Valentines Day 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 6:00 pm Leadership Dev Committee Meeting 6:00 pm The Gathering Planning Mtg - off site 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice Sanctuary	15 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	16 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal	17 6:30 pm Dining for Women	18 8:30 am UUA New Minister Start-Up 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 10:00 am RE Council Meeting - Off Site
19 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Adventures Spiritual Growth 11:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Fellowship Hour 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	20 President's Day 9:15 am UU Breakfast (Reynolds Rd Garden Café) MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice Sanctuary	22 9:30 am Focus Blanket Making 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	23 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal	24 7:00 pm World Dining	25 8:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 10:00 pm Awareness of Special Needs - offsite 6:00 pm Common Reads with Melissa
26 Potluck Sunday 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Adventures Spiritual Growth 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Fellowship Hour 1:00 pm NEW UU 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	27 6:00 pm Board Meeting	28 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice	1 March 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	2 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal	3 7:00 pm First Friday Book Club	4 9:00 am Social Action Sat. 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Guest At Your Table (GAYT)--Jan 22-Feb 12 Step 1--read the brochure available at church. Step 2--decide on your donation. Step 3--write a check to UUSC (NOT TO the church) or use a credit card. Step 4--fill in the form on the envelope, enclose the check or enter the credit card info, seal, stamp and mail. Online option: Make a donation to UUSC at uusc.org/givetoguest anytime before June 30, 2017. If you are using a collection box, read one of the stories each week as a family. Encourage kids to contribute to the box. When complete, count the contribution and convert it to check or credit card and proceed with steps 3 and 4 above. Questions? Contact Carrie Baum. carriebaum@toast.net

VALENTINE'S PARTY

Mark your calendars for February 11th for our second annual Valentine's party. Guests are welcome. Entertainment and fellowship starting at 7pm. Contact Carla or Jewel for info. (cloganmercer@yahoo.com) (jeweldiljohn@aol.com). \$10 per person at door, suggested. Wings and beverages provided. Bring an appetizer to share.

WORLD DINING

Join us for dinner monthly on the fourth Friday of the month. RSVP to Kathy (kdeanda@att.net) so that she can make reservations, location, and for additional information.

WHAT IS POVERTY?

February 6, 2017 from 7:00 – 9:00pm in Fellowship Hall, please join Joyce McCauley-Benner for her discussion on "What is Poverty? And How to Work With People in Poverty" UU Toledo's Living Without Series. She is a Toledo native (daughter of UU member Terry McCauley) who comes to share with us her experience working with people in poverty as they negotiate life's everyday struggles. Ms. McCauley-Benner is well versed in knowledge and experience (especially locally) to present this program having worked for over 15 years with low income and vulnerable populations. Today she runs a utility assistance program. She has made presentations on college campuses, at international conferences and at Capitol Hill briefings over the last several years. This two hour session will be an interactive experience with the audience. A question and answer time is also included.

MEDITATION GROUP

Please join us at 5:30 pm on Sundays, February 12th and February 26th, at the Alzheimer's Association building at 2500 N. Reynolds Road. We will enjoy a 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 become more centered and peaceful in our daily lives. Contact Karen at kbchristie@bex.net with any questions. In the event of inclement weather we may need to cancel so please check your email or contact Karen before heading out.

AWARENESS OF SPECIAL NEEDS

Do you experience day to day challenges because of cognitive, neurological, mobility, or other health challenges? Do you care for someone with these conditions? Please join us for our regular fourth Saturday meeting to enjoy encouragement, resources, and laughter. For questions, contact: Lynn Lyle. lynnlyle@bex.net

NEW UU

Thank you to everyone who attended our first workshop of "The New UU" last week. It was valuable to have seasoned members and leaders involved in our welcoming of potential new members. Despite a few first-time glitches, it seemed to be well received. It was great for all of us to get to know one another a little better. Any newcomers who missed the first in the series but would like to catch up, please contact Melanie (lanieleec@yahoo.com) to schedule another class time. The second workshop will be held February 26, at 1 pm, in order to allow potluck and fellowship before class time. Stay tuned to your UU-FYI to learn more about becoming a member or deepening your connection to our church family.

SOCIAL ACTION SATURDAYS

Social Action Saturday is Baby University, this month. On February 4th, we will be help prepare and serve food to children and parents at Baby University. Please check the FYI or contact Chris Kasior for details. cmkasior@gmail.com.

FAMILY GAME DAY

Join your church family to play board games on Sunday February 5, 2017 in Fellowship Hall at 1:00. Play some games this Super Bowl Sunday before the big game.

2017 AUCTION

Save the date, March 11th, 4:30 PM, for a magical opportunity to support our beloved First Unitarian Church. WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR is our theme, and "it makes no difference who you are", because you can support the auction with your donation of services, a special treasure, food donation for the event, your time, and/or your attendance at the auction. This is our biggest "fun"draiser of the year, so please join us! It our "WISH" that every member or friend be somehow involved in making this year's auction the biggest success ever! Stay tuned for details, and contact the committee to see how you might help. Co-Chairs: Susan Smith: 419-874-2838, smith419@bex.net and Chris Stockwell: 419-882-1741, castockwell@bex.net