



SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR FEBRUARY 2019



Sunday, February 3

Welcoming Diversity: This Is Who We Are

Worship Associate

Andrew Frantz

David Strickler

What does it look like when a congregation of mostly African American evangelical Universalist Christians merges with a mostly white Unitarian Universalist church? This happened in Tulsa, Oklahoma with great success and some failure. Drew Frantz will share his perspective from a week in Tulsa and what we can learn from it at First Unitarian Church of Toledo.

Sunday, February 10

A Darwinian Valentine

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

With Darwin Day—the 210th anniversary of Charles Darwin’s birth—on Tuesday the 12th and Valentine’s Day on Thursday the 14th, we’ll have appreciative words on why evolution and love are important and how each helps the other.

Sunday, February 17

Superstition

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Judy Trautman

Whether it’s taking actions to keep monsters from being under the bed, wearing the same unwashed clothes to help a team be victorious, attributing mysterious sounds to the presence of a ghost, or making seeming obsessive and compulsive gestures (when you don’t have an OCD diagnosis) in order to keep a perceived normality undisturbed, we all engage in superstitions even though our reason tells us not to. Superstition gives some credence to the supernatural that many of us don’t believe in. We’ll look at how stories and reality coexist in Unitarian Universalism.

Sunday, February 24

Spring Cleaning

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Karen Christie

Marie Kondo is having a major moment; the Japanese expert on simplification has two books plus a graphic story popular in America, and she has added a series on Netflix. And her style isn’t the only one; “Swedish Death Cleaning” is also being practiced. Plus, we can’t forget some of the transitions shown in the TV show “Hoarders.” We hope that Sunday’s service on spring cleaning, the whys and maybe a little bit of how, based on these popular works, will bring you joy.



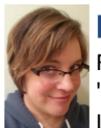
Reverend Tim Barger

Our church has at least one unplanned closing a year, it seems. In January, weather caused us not to have services for two consecutive weeks. We follow a set policy on when to close, and the policy both has a bit of leeway and some strict standards. A Level 2 emergency declared by the sheriff or Toledo Public Schools being closed means that we automatically cancel everything church-related for the day. If neither of those standards has been met, the president or I can declare a closure. For both January 13 and January 20, Terry McCauley and I made the joint decision to close. Both weekends were times when the weather was bad on Saturday, and we had to assess how well conditions would improve by Sunday. For the 13th, it didn’t look like the city roads would be in good shape by Sunday morning. On January 20, the Level 2 was lifted at about 8:30 am, which meant we could have decided to meet. However, last-minute decisions have drawbacks, and my thought is that the more advance notice, the better, so we made a Saturday-evening closure announcement. I don’t want people to shovel out their cars and make rash decisions about driving to get here on time because a closing-level emergency was lifted at the last minute. When the snowfall begins on Saturday, the road and safety systems aren’t normally at full strength, so our Sunday meetings present possible transportation hazards to our members. Consecutive Sunday closings are uncomfortable, but we need to be practical about our members’ challenges in getting to church. Getting back to church after two weeks of canceled services makes it reunion time, in a way. It’s good to see people excited to be at our service, and to hear that they missed the fellowship time. Stay warm, and don’t slip on any ice. In Fellowship, Rev. Tim



Terry McCauley, Board President

We’ve just come from the month of January in which we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.’s life and message. His message was the call for the unconditional love of everyone. Now we come to February. The month of Valentine’s Day. The month traditionally thought of as the month of love. In addition to these timely reminders of what we are called to, we have the ever present Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism which are all based in love and we have the opening line of our own congregation’s covenant, “Love is the doctrine of this church”. It is pretty clear that we proclaim that we are all about love. We are all very capable of love and we have the support of each other to share our love. Let’s continually encourage each other to come up with creative and maybe radical ways to show our love through service to each other, our neighbors and the whole community. Let us be the prophets of today, the spiritual leaders of today and the bringers of light today. Working together we will be a vibrant spiritual community that achieves growth, visibility and relevance while fostering spiritual growth and compassionate action in our community and in each other. I pray you will join me in loving service and spiritual growth. In Fellowship, Terry M.



Nicole Jonsson, Religious Educator

February is the month of love. I'd like us to expand the traditional meaning of Valentine's Day to include community love. How can we show our younger UU's the meaning of "everyone has a voice" and "everyone is important"? I'd like to suggest some visible ways we can do just that: volunteering in RE and periodically putting food in our Free Little Pantry. When kids witness our involvement and donations, it is a powerful lesson. In Fellowship, Nicole Jonsson

TAX STATEMENTS

Tax Statements and updated Pledge reports will be available for pickup this Sunday. A Tax Statement represents financial donations contributed for the 2018 calendar year and can be given to your accountant. A Pledge Statement Update represent payments received from the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2018 and apply to Pledges for the current pledge year. Questions can be directed to Teresa at bookkeeper@uutoledo.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

Get your auction on! Save the date of March 30, 2019! All the Super Heroes have it on their calendars.

CHOCOLATE

We have a limited supply of 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! Please buy some of this delicious chocolate. (Great for Valentine's Day!)

KNITWITS

Join this UU group who knits and crochets warmth for others. We make hats, mittens, scarves etc which we deliver in the Fall to two organizations helping the homeless. We also recently knit squares for an afghan which will appear at the church’s auction this Spring. We meet at church on the second Friday of each month, 9:30-11:30AM. Upcoming dates are: Feb 8th, March 8th, April 12th, and May 10th. We have enough 8” x 8” squares to start assembling the afghan. Thank you to all who contributed!

THANK YOU

Many years ago, one of UU Toledo's chalice circles began meeting for breakfast once a month to continue to touch base and have fellowship outside of Sunday. Soon they decided to invite the entire church community. When you see "UU Breakfast" on the church schedule, that is the current incarnation. Our community is fairly widespread with members in Oregon, Ohio to some in Whitehouse or Blissfield and more. Interest arose to have breakfast or lunch meet-ups in other areas, too. "Second Breakfast" will meet at Silver Moon Soda Grill (<https://silvermoonsodagrill.com>) on the LAST Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am. (Jan 29, Feb 26, etc.) The restaurant will have a large space available for us, so there is no need to RSVP. Please arrive a few minutes early if possible. If you are interested in starting another open meet-up, contact Melanie or another member of Compass for any questions.

LFH BLANKET MAKING

Leading Families Home Blanket Making Meeting meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday. No sewing needed; just bring sharp scissors. These sessions create blankets to give children as their families move to their new home. Any questions? Contact Elly Gans - email and phone number in the directory. Join us February 27th!

VALENTINE'S PARTY

Our annual Valentine's Party will be February 16 from 7 to 10 pm. Tickets will be sold beginning in February. Sign up to volunteer before purchasing your ticket to receive a discount.

HELP NEEDED

Teens! Do you need service hours? We need you! We are down to the last of our World's Finest Chocolate Bars. Do you want to earn an hour of service? Sign up below to sell the candy during coffee hour. Adults just want to help your church? Please sign up also! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A094DA9AB2AA4F94-fellowship>

SPIRIT PLAY CHILD CARE OPTION

Children beyond the Nursery age may enjoy free play, stories and a snack during the 11:00 service in the Spirit Play room with 2 adult facilitators. We hope that this option will not only provide space for play but will be an opportunity for adults and children to get to know each other better. Parents may sign in their children beginning at 10:50. A big thank you to the many folks who have volunteered to be facilitators!

PLEASE JOIN US

On February 10, at 2 PM, Kirstin Eidenbach, Attorney and founder of the Atlas Justice Center in Arizona will be speaking at 1st Unitarian about prison issues and prisoner rights with a Q and A to follow. Eidenbach has devoted her career to empower the often marginalized population of prison survivors. Light refreshments will be available.

FEBRUARY 2019 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 3:00 pm First Friday Book Club 7:00 pm Imbolc with Sandy Zintz	2 Groundhog Day 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 11:15 am Fiberwork Orphans knitters and crafters
3 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 12:30 pm New UU Workshops 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	4	5 Chinese New Year 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 2:00 pm Tree of Life CUUPS Chapter Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Sagan Room	6 6:30 pm Music Meeting 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	7	8 9:30 am Knit Wits - Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm Family Fun Night	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 RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Social Justice Meeting 2:00 pm Prison Awareness Event 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	11	12 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Sagan Room	13 1:30 pm Chalice Circle 6:30 pm Tree of Life CUUPS Chapter Mtg 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	14 Valentine's Day 	15 6:30 pm Dining for Women	16 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 10:00 am RE Council Mtg 7:00 pm Valentine's Day Party
17 Styrofoam Collection 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Combined Spiritual Adventures Children's RE 10:00 am Special Spiritual Adventures 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	18 President's Day 9:30 am UU Breakfast (Reynolds Rd. Garden Café)	19 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Sagan Room 7:00 pm Chalice Circle	20 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21	22 7:00 pm World Dining	23 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group and 1:00 pm Awareness of Special Needs - offsite
24 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Combined Spiritual Adventures Children's RE 10:00 am Special Spiritual Adventures 11:00 am Worship Service 12:00 pm Fourth Sunday Potluck 2:00 pm Tea With Remarkable Women 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	25	26 9:30 am UU Breakfast (Silver Moon) 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Sagan Room	27 9:30 am Blanket Making 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	28 7:00 pm Board Meeting	1 March 3:00 pm First Friday Book Club	2 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 11:15 am Fiberwork Orphans knitters and crafters

MEDITATION

We invite you to join us at 5:30 pm on Sundays, Feb.10 and Feb.24, at the MemoryLane Care Services building, 2500 N. Reynolds Road (corner of Pickfair and N. Reynolds). 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. Please join us for meditation in the Carl Sagan room at First UU on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30PM. 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.

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 February 2nd.

WORLD'S FINEST

We still 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! Thank you to everyone who supported our many fundraisers these past few months. We are finishing this last sale. We have a limited supply of World's Finest Chocolate Bars for sale. Thank you all for the support of these sales. Please buy some of this delicious chocolate. (Great to save for Valentine's Day!)

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.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Family Fun Night takes place on the 2nd Friday evening of each month from 6pm-8pm. We welcome families, friends and people of all ages to Friday Fun Night on February 8, 2019 at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a beverage and snack to share and a love of fun. We will have games, snacks, drinks and a craft to honor Valentine's Day.

AWARENESS OF SPECIAL NEEDS

Are you someone living with a disability or complex medical needs or a caregiver? Join us on the fourth Saturday of the month, for fellowship and great conversation. The meeting will take place at the Jonsson's wheelchair accessible home from 1:00 - 2:30 pm. Contact Nicole at 419-344-9039 or nicolejonsson@yahoo.com for more information.

TERRACYCLE

Be sure to refer to the lists on the Green Sanctuary bulletin board when adding items to the Toledo Zoo TerraCycle bin in the hall. Many every-day items such as cereal bags, chip bags, toothpaste containers, Solo cups and plates, and shampoo dispensers can be recycled here. Not everything that TerraCycle takes is accepted by the Zoo program. If it is going to the landfill anyway, find a reuse or dispose of it yourself, saving the Zoo people sorting time.

WORLD DINING

World Dining is a wonderful way to get to know your church family outside of church while experiencing some of Toledo's fine restaurants. We meet at a different restaurant each month on the 4th Friday at 7 pm. Please email Luanne to be added to the monthly email invitation at: Luanne@theBillsteins.com. See you on February 22nd.

VOTE

Toledo voters can vote on The Lake Erie Bill of Rights in the upcoming special election. This issue can be voted on early starting Jan 29th at the Board of Elections, or on voting day at your polling place FEB 26th! If you do NOT have a ride to vote then I will drive you! Monday I am taking carpools for the Board of Elections as needed up to election day. If you need a ride message me. I will work with you. This is the most important election I have voted in. WE THE PEOPLE have a voice and a choice to protect, defend, bathe, swim, and drink clean water! Please reach out to me if you need a ride! Contact- Stefania Czech- 419-908-0038 or stefaniaczec@yahoo.com (texting is ok) For more info: <http://lakeerieaction.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/ToledoansForSafeWater>