

SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR JANUARY 2017



Sunday, January 1

"The First"

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Melissa Jeter

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017! What are the firsts in our lives?

Music Notes: We launch the new year with music befitting the season: Peter Tchaikovsky's "January: By the Hearth" (from his The Seasons) as the prelude and Robert Schumann's "New Year's Eve" for the postlude. In honor of Twelfth Night, the traditional celebration of the Magi bringing gifts to the special child, the offertory is David Clark Isele's "We Three Kings."

Sunday, January 8

"Going Full-Time"

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Joe Moran

Dedication and intention are two aspects of being fully involved. What does full-time mean in our religious ways?

Music Notes: By this time in the circle of seasons, we are usually locked into the coldest time of the year (at least, if global warming doesn't dictate otherwise). So this morning's service music celebrates winter with "See amid the Winter's Snow" as the prelude and Vivaldi's "Winter" (from The Seasons) as the offertory. Eugene Butler's setting of the famous Robert Frost poem, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," is the Chalice Choir's first anthem of the new year. You'll be charmed by the way the piano accompaniment suggests the movement of the speaker's horse.

Sunday, January 15

"At the Bedside: Chaplain Stories"

Worship Associate

Jami Yandle

Luanne Billstein

Hospice Chaplain Jami Yandle explores themes of hope, reconciliation, and restoration at end of life.

Music Notes: This week the United States celebrates the birth of one of its modern heroes and martyrs, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We honor Dr. King's roots with three examples of that distinctly American musical form, the spiritual, presenting "Peace like a River," "Hold On," and "Ain'a That Good News." The Gathering presents two modern pieces, "Let It Be" by Paul McCartney of The Beatles and "Turn! Turn! Turn!" by folk singer, Pete Seeger.

Saturday, January 22

"Push On With Love"

Worship Associates

Judy Trautman with Reverend Tim Barger

Social Justice Committee

It's Social Justice Sunday. Voices from the congregation will share some of our social justice outreach. We are all in this together. We also start "Guest at Your Table" today.

Music Notes: The service music this Sunday has the theme of circles, as the Chalice Choir presents Robert Allen Petker's "The Circle," and The Gathering presents "Circle Round for Freedom."

Sunday, January 29

"Thoughts for the New Minister"

Worship Associate

Reverend Saroya King

Lynn Lyle

A lot of powerful religious leaders, be they Jesus, Buddha, Krishna, or even Muhammad, really are speaking of the same things; love and acceptance, the value of friendship, and respecting yourselves so that you can respect others.

Music Notes: The Handbell Choir starts today's service off with a rousing arrangement of that good old hymn, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah." The Chalice Choir's anthem is Allen Pote's heartfelt "We Will Be a Shelter for Each Other," which expresses the concluding sentiment of our covenant, "to help one another." A highlight of today's service is a piano duet, featuring Bonnie Rowe and Amelia Simmons, one of our beloved youth.



Terry Acocks, Board President

Reverend Tim will join us in February as we change from lay-led to shared ministry. We will certainly celebrate his becoming our Parish Minister. The formal installation ceremony will occur later, probably May 21 at 4 pm. The schedule is pending. Reverend Tim is attending to the schedule and guest participants and will let us know the details when arranged. Jami Yandle has worked diligently for the last year to bring a UUA by-law language change to the next General Assembly. Jami expects to be able to give a progress update within the next month. This is a complicated, time-consuming and very worthy process. Watch for it in the FYI and on the Bulletin Board by the office. I will be traveling in January but available by email or my cell. Carol Keierleber will chair the January Board meeting. We have much to look forward to in the new year. Happy New Year!

In Fellowship, Terry Acocks



Reverend Tim Barger

Happy new year to all. As I prepare to start full-time ministry at First Unitarian, I want to bring up the name thing, both my own name and our congregation's. You Toledo Unitarians know me as Reverend Tim, and I hope you'll continue to call me that. It's special because the members of First Unitarian Church of Toledo ordained me, so calling me "Reverend" is directly tied to your action. During my time as religion editor for The Blade, people have recognized "TK," and I've said that it's "TK" in print, "Tim" face to face, but I answer to both. If you're interested in where that TK came from, it's a combination of my initials (Timothy Knox) and a journalist's mark that means information is "to come," or to be added after the story has been written. If a TK appears in print, the assumption is that it's a typo, so there's some silliness on my part in making people wonder if my byline is a typo. It might also be a way to look forward, to read ahead and see what's TK. For my "public" name as the minister at First Unitarian, I'll keep TK, with the "Rev.," and we'll add some bluster by referring to my Ph.D., which is in communications. So the form that you'll see on the church sign and in our Blade ad in the religion section's Directory of Worship and even in the order of service on Sundays is "Rev. Dr. TK Barger," or sometimes "Rev. TK Barger, Ph.D." I hope you'll continue to call me "Reverend Tim" or "Rev. Tim" or even just "Tim." And if your habit is for titles and last names, it's appropriate in this congregation to call me "Reverend Barger" instead of "Dr. Barger" because of your making me a reverend. And, if you prefer "TK," go for it. As I noted, I answer to all of those variations. My Facebook page is "Tim Barger" and you're welcome to friend me if you'd like. It's a personal page, so the content is not all minister and church related. On Twitter, I'm @TK_Barger and that has been used primarily as a professional page, with links to my published work, and you can follow that if you're into tweets. The official name of our religious society is First Unitarian Church of Toledo. We never formally adapted the "Unitarian Universalist" name after the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America consolidated in 1961 to become the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. The "First" doesn't have much meaning when we're the only one in Toledo, and the five northwest Ohio congregations all have uniqueness. Three have Unitarian Universalist in their names and there's First Universalist Church of Lyons. I like that we're still referred to as Unitarian, though we're a Unitarian Universalist congregation and we have some members who lean more to the Universalist aspects of our heritage than the Unitarian. I prefer that to the habit of abbreviating to just "UU," as few people outside of our own churches know what "UU" stands for. I've also taken to referring to us sometimes as "Toledo Unitarians," acknowledging that we're the people, not just an institution. So here's the name summary: Rev. Tim is the minister for the Toledo Unitarians. More formally, Rev. Dr. TK Barger is the minister of First Unitarian Church of Toledo. And please, don't let's start on "the" Rev. Every unused "the" ends up at The Ohio State University, and that's a column for someone else. My new church email is revtim@uutoledo.org. Please use it to be in touch.

In faith, Reverend Tim



Nicole Jonsson, Acting Religious Educator (ARE)

Many religious traditions view the new year as a time for "sweeping out" what is not no longer needed or useful. I love to do a deep sort of household clutter before January starts. After a full calendar year of heading First Unitarian's children's RE program, I feel confident enough to tackle the RE supply closet! I now have a better understanding of what is useful, and what is taking up space. I feel rejuvenated by the order I create, and new discoveries fuel programming ideas. Every previous RE director has left her stamp on the supply closet, and going through the mess will be a bit like "junk archaeology". (Someone really liked glitter!) If you have the interest and time, consider excavating with me.

In Fellowship, Nicole Jonsson, Acting Religious Educator

FOCUS BLANKET MAKING

Join us for a FOCUS blanket-making workshop on the fourth Wednesday, January 25th, at 9:30 am, in Fellowship Hall. Bring smiles and scissors. M.J. Moldawsky and Beth Freeman




COMMON READS

Join Melissa Jeter, Saturday January 28th at 6:30 pm for Common Reads. "And Still I Rise" by Henry Louis Gates Jr. is the book. There are many copies of the book in the public library.

FOCUS CHRISTMAS

A heartfelt Holiday Thank You to our generous and loving congregation. This year's FOCUS Christmas was a success because of you. Our 4 sponsored families received a bounty of gifts (most of which were necessities, but gifts all the same), a huge basket of personal care and household care items, and a Kroger gift card for a holiday dinner and beyond. But this year, because of the outpouring of sharing, we were also able to purchase four additional Kroger gift cards for families that were not sponsored. FOCUS staff were delighted when we arrived with 2 carloads and a truck full of tangible evidence that 1st UU cares deeply about our Toledo neighbors. Thank you again and again for making this program such a rewarding social justice project. Beth Freeman and Mary Moldawsky.

January 2017 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day 10:00 am Adventures Spiritual Growth 11:00 am Worship Service 1:00 pm Board Games 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA 	2	3 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 1:30 pm Chalice Circle 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice Sanctuary	4 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	5 11:30 am Compass - Off site 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal	6 7:00 pm First Friday Book Club	7 9:00 am Social Action Sat. 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group
8 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 Social Justice Committee 12:15 pm Caring Committee 12:15 pm Committee Shared Ministry 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	9	10 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 6:00 pm Leadership Dev 6:00 pm The Gathering Planning Mtg - off site 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice Sanctuary	11 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	12 7:00 pm Death Penalty Discussion 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
15 Styrofoam Collection 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Adventures Spiritual Growth 11:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	16 MLK Jr. Day 9:15 am UU Breakfast (Reynolds Rd Garden Café) 	17 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA 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 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 10:00 am RE Council Meeting - Off Site
22 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 12:15 pm Potluck 1:00 pm New UU class 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	23 6:00 pm Board Meeting	24 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice Sanctuary	25 9:30 am Focus Blanket Making 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	26 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal	27 7:00 pm World Dining	28 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 1:00 pm Awareness of Special Needs - offsite 6:30 pm Common Reads with Melissa
29 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Adventures Spiritual Growth 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Fellowship Hour 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	30	31 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice	1 February 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	2 Groundhog 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

COMMITTEE ON SHARED MINISTRY

The Committee on Shared Ministry has been authorized by the Church Board and the Congregation to fulfill two related functions. First, we review one component of our church's ministry every month during the church year to support and assist that ministry in fulfilling our church's mission and vision. To that end, we invite the head of each component ministry to one of our monthly meetings to update us on that ministry's activities from the preceding year. Second, we offer a means for conflict resolution involving all aspects of church ministry. To facilitate that duty, we will have a Committee member present at coffee hour with a locked "suggestions/concerns" box to accept written suggestions and concerns about ministry. At all other times, suggestions and concerns can be placed in our lock box, which will be kept in the church office. Suggestions/concerns can also be submitted to us via the Committee's email address: cosm@uutoledo.org. Concerns will be handled in confidence and in accordance with a written protocol available from the Committee member at coffee hour, in the church office, and on the church's website. Note that we cannot act on anonymous concerns. Our duty is to try to resolve conflicts, and we cannot hope to do that if one party is incognito. Committee on Shared Ministry: Reverend Tim Barger, Bonnie Rowe, Chris Stockwell, Dave Strickler, Phil Teitlebaum, Chair

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.

CONGRATULATIONS

2017 begins with two happy announcements about members deepening their Unitarian-Universalist participation. Melissa Jeter has been accepted into the Commissioned Lay Ministry Program. Jami Yandle has been accepted as a candidate for the UUA ministry. Both efforts take years to complete and reflect their deep commitment. Congratulations and gratitude to Melissa and Jami.

MEDITATION GROUP

The Sunday evening Meditation group is now in its 21st year! This group was started by Lynn Lyle all those many years ago upon her return from a Thich Nhat Hanh retreat in which he encouraged all attendees to go back home and form a sangha to support and strengthen your meditation practice and that of those around you. Lynn, we owe you an enormous debt of gratitude not only for organizing this group, but for leading it, hosting it in your home and nourishing each and every one of us in the process. We offer you our heartfelt thanks. Karen Christie will be the new contact person for this group. Please join us at 5:30 pm on Sundays, January 8th and January 22nd, 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. We will close these two sessions a little early in order to allow anyone interested to attend Rev. Rinsen's workshops on Zen Mindfulness for activists which begin at 7 PM at the Zen temple. 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 have mobility, neurological, cognitive, or emotional challenges that affect your daily life? Are you caring for someone with such challenges? Please join us for our monthly support meeting on Saturday, January 28, at 1:00 pm at the Jonsson wheelchair accessible home for sharing of resources, encouragement, and laughter. For questions, contact: Nicole Jonsson or Lynn Lyle. lynnlyle@bex.net

NAOMI TWINING AND THE SHARPS

Want to learn more about our heroes? On January 25 Naomi Twining will be speaking to the combined book clubs of our three local synagogues and you are invited! The book club members have made a common read of Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War in preparation for this event. Reservations are required; please contact Naomi at 419-474-7084.

FAMILY GAME DAY

Join your church family to play board games New Year's Day, January 1, 2017 in Fellowship Hall from 1:30-3:30.

DIRECTORY

Please remember to dispose of your old directories properly. We do not want to accidentally share confidential information. Thank you.

SOCIAL ACTION SATURDAYS

January 7th is our first Social Action Saturday this year. Please contact Christopher Kasior for details. cmkasior@gmail.com