



SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR JANUARY 2019



Sunday, January 6

Let's Make Some Resolutions

Worship Associate

David Strickler

Karen Christie

Epiphany, or Three Kings' Day, commemorates the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus and signifies the end of the Christmas season. On this Sunday, we will use our wisdom to create and share New Year's resolutions focused on spiritual growth, on strengthening covenantal relationships within our congregation, and on continuing the 'work of Christmas' in the wider community.

Sunday, January 13

Doing Church

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Luanne Billstein

How do we "do" church at First Unitarian? What is tradition and why is there change? What are the roles and responsibilities of the congregation, leadership, and the minister? In the middle of the church year, and the beginning of a calendar year, we'll look at our ways of doing church.

Sunday, January 20

Beverly Pulpit Swap

Worship Associate

Reverend Ed Heilman

Judy Trautman

We continue the annual tradition of having ministers from congregations in the Beverly Cluster of churches speak in one another's pulpits. This year, three congregations are participating, so Rev. Ed Heilman of Park Congregational Church (UCC) will return to First Unitarian; Rev. Rob Johnson of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church will be at Park Church, and Rev. Tim will preach at Holy Trinity.

Sunday, January 27

The Kitchen God

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Joe Moran

There is an Asian religious practice that, shortly before the Chinese New Year, there is a farewell ceremony for the Kitchen God, sometimes known as the Prince of the Oven. That's because the Kitchen God makes an annual trip to heaven to tell the Jade Emperor whether families have been good or bad. How do kitchens, gods, and naughty or nice families affect our lives?



Reverend Tim Barger

Do we have plans for the new year? Of course we do. Would you please make plans that include our church activities? It doesn't have to be a resolution; just good intention. There are opportunities for involvement in the Sunday service. Be an usher or greeter, and come to training/refresher in mid-January (the date wasn't set by press time). We'd like to include all ages for ushers and greeters, including the church youth. Join the Worship Team to help us make all the changes we've been trying to do, especially including younger people in the service, as well as learning how to do audio and video. And, yes, be part of the music. Our new music director, Mickey Miller, will be restarting the Chalice Choir, contemporary music group, youth choir, and handbell choir, with the help of Bonnie Rowe, who has agreed to be our permanent accompanist.

Explore the opportunities for learning. There are the every-Sunday 10 am offerings for kids and adults—sometimes combined, and on January 6, 20, and 27, that will include a three-part Unitarian Universalist history class offered by Phil Teitlebaum. If you want to know more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation—and we encourage all new members to take this course during their first year, if possible, go to the Compass classes at 1 pm on January 6, 13, and 27.

And later in the spring, I will offer the first of a periodic study of different scriptures of world religions. We'll begin with the Book of Job from the Bible, for a three-part reading/discussion that will include some homework. Look for sign-ups soon.

Plus, you have continuing opportunities for spiritual practice. There are the 6:30 pm Tuesday sessions in the MultiFaith Meditation Center in the Carl Sagan Room. I'll be leading the meditation on January 29 and February 12 (which, on Darwin Day, will be a humanist-oriented sitting). Remember that next to the chancel in the sanctuary we have a book for you to record joys, sorrows, celebrations, and concerns, and you can write in that anytime, not just before or during a service. And there are our Sunday services at 11—be part of our congregation! Have a good year. In Fellowship, Rev. Tim



Terry McCauley, Board President

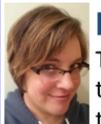
As we begin this new year let us do so with enthusiasm, optimism and energy to do what we can to help others especially our church and community. Our covenant says we will help one another because service is our prayer. So let us act on these words of wisdom:

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can still do something. And because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do." Edward Everett Hale.

"Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done and not in some future day or future year. It is today that we fit ourselves for the greater usefulness of tomorrow. Today is the seed time, now are the hours of work, and tomorrow comes the harvest and the playtime." W.E.B. DuBois

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 service and spiritual growth. In Fellowship, Terry M.



Nicole Jonsson, Religious Educator

This may seem counterintuitive, but I really enjoyed listening to members during the forums last month. I listened to the congregation with the understanding that we are talking about an institution that we love. I'm so grateful to be part of an intentional community who is willing to think about what is working, and what isn't. If you have thoughts about religious education at First Unitarian, feel free to contact me. In Fellowship, Nicole Jonsson

NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

We have a new music director with the new year! Mickey Miller, who is studying for a doctorate in contemporary music at Bowling Green State University, is completing the paperwork to join our staff. As well, Bonnie Rowe Nadarajah will be our regular accompanist. Mickey is from Kansas City, and she earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri--Columbia. She has sung opera and contemporary music, including at Carnegie Hall, has a wide range of musical interests, and when she was a master's student at Louisiana State University, she attended a Unitarian Universalist church in Baton Rouge. Bonnie, as you know, is a music teacher, oboist, and pianist. With Sierra Webb, she kept our music program afloat after Gladys Rudolph retired, and she has been our main musician this past year. Look for information as the year begins about chalice choir, handbell choir, youth choir, and our contemporary music group. There will be sign-up opportunities for all of those ensembles.

CALENDARS

Thank you to all of our photographers who submitted photos for our calendar. Your beautiful work will be appreciated for a long time to come. Thank you especially to Melanie Christiansen, Colette Cordova, Stefania Czech, Mary M. Deaver, Terry McCauley, Richard Miller, Judy Paschalis, Karen Porter, Tom Sheehan, and Jami Yandle, and anyone else who may have submitted a photo. Please continue to send your beautiful pictures this coming year, as we plan to make this an annual tradition.

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 January 11th!

SAVE THE DATE!

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

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who supported our many fundraisers these past few months. We are finishing our last sale. 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 to save for Valentine's Day!)

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.

STEWARDSHIP

In this season of light, harbors of love and much giving, the StewardSHIP Committee, on the behalf of First U, thanks you for your generosity. Our pledge campaign has reached \$72,661 this week. Wishing you and yours peace and merriment as 2018 winds down.

THANK YOU

Thank you Kroger Shoppers! By choosing your church as your community rewards recipient, you have raised \$175.34 this quarter. Free money for your church! Do you shop Kroger? Sign your shoppers card up to benefit our church. This costs you nothing and does not affect your reward points at all. Sign up at: <http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com/>. Shop on Amazon? Sign up for their charitable giving program also at: <https://smile.amazon.com>. Have questions? Call the church office.

January 2019 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Years Day  6:30 pm Meditation - Sagan Room	2 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	3	4 3:00 pm First Friday Book Club	5 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 11:15 am Fiberwork Orphans knitters and crafters
6 Styrofoam Collection 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	7	8 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 2:00 pm Tree of Life CUUPS Chapter Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Sagan Room	9 1:30 pm Chalice Circle 6:30 pm Tree of Life CUUPS Chapter Mtg 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	10	11 9:30 am Knit Wits - Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm Family Fun Night	12 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 1:00 pm Secular Humanists of Western Lake Erie
13 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 12:30 pm New UU Workshops 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	14	15 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Sagan Room 7:00 pm Chalice Circle	16 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	17	18 6:30 pm Dining for Women	19 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 10:00 am RE Council Mtg
20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 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	21 MLK Jr. Day 9:30 am UU Breakfast (Reynolds Rd. Garden Café)	22 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Sagan Room	23 9:30 am Blanket Making 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	24 7:00 pm Board Meeting	25 7:00 pm World Dining	26 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group and 1:00 pm Awareness of Special Needs - offsite
27 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 12:30 pm New UU Workshops 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	28	29 9:30 am UU Breakfast Silver Moon 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Sagan Room	30 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	31	1 February 3:00 pm First Friday Book Club	2 Groundhog Day 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, Jan. 13 and Jan.27, 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. 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. We will meet for our Tuesday evening meditation group on Jan. 1, New Year'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 an 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.**

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!)

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 January 5th.

READING PROFICIENCY HELP NEEDED
 Our Church has adopted Arlington School as part of TPS's Faith Based Partnership program. The Arlington School Principal, Mrs Viers, has asked if church members would be willing to tutor third graders who need extra help in reading proficiency in order to prepare them to take the Reading Guarantee test that is given to all third graders at the end of March. This is a short term assignment from January through March 22. Please contact Carol Keierleber (keierleber@aol.com or 419-351-4084) for info no later than Sunday January 6th.

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. Enjoy 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. If you want, bring a dish to pass, games, sewing projects, conversation or just your smile. Join us January 11th.

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 January 25th.