

SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR MARCH 2017



Sunday, March 5

“Free Thinking and Covenant”
Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
Judy Trautman

Reverend Tim's sermons in March will be on covenant, as we look at our Unitarian Universalist religion-based promises in having a covenant for all foundation in our relationships.
Music Notes: The highlight of this morning's service music is the Chalice Choir's anthem, UU composer, Betsy Jo Angebrannt's "Out of the Stars." Ms. Angebrannt sets Robert T. Weston's inspired poem (#530 in Singing the Living Tradition) to a throbbing, primitive, urgent rhythm, representing the explosive forces that spun planets from the sun and erupted into not only life but—amazingly—love. The quiet prelude, "Aria," and offertory, "Always Remember," are set off against the postlude, Paul Thurmond's rousing "Triumphal March."

Sunday, March 12

“Covenant and Ministry”
Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
Lynn Lyle

Reverend Tim's sermons in March will be on covenant, as we look at our Unitarian Universalist religion-based promises in having a covenant for all foundation in our relationships.
Music Notes: Somewhere in the lineage of many Americans, both Black and white, there is an émigré from Ireland. To celebrate this fact and give honor to Ireland's patron Saint Patrick, whose feast day is March 17, our service music focuses on Irish melodies or melodies inspired by that most beautiful of places, the Emerald Isle: the prelude, "Luinneach"; the offertory, an ancient Irish melody; and the postlude, "Follow Me Down to Carlow." The Chalice Choir sings Douglas Wagner's setting of the famous peace prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, "Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace."

Sunday, March 19

“Come As You Are and Bring a Friend”
Worship Associate

Reverend Rod Thompson
Luanne Billstein

This service has two parts: (1) recognition that we expect you to bring your authentic self into our community and that we strive to be welcoming to one and all, and (2) encouragement for you to bring a friend. Overcome your shyness and ask someone to join us!
Music Notes: As we welcome back among us the Reverend Rod Thompson, we focus musically—at Rod's request—on the coming of spring. In the prelude, Claude Louis D'Aquin's "Cuckoo," listen for the sound of the bird coming from high and low as the leaves of the trees rustle around him in the spring air. The Chalice Choir's anthem, "Winter Feels the Sword of Spring," rejoices in the end of winter and the release we feel with spring upon us. The Gathering will share with us "Keep on the Sunny Side" by composers Ada Blenkhorn and J. Howard Entwisle.

Sunday, March 26

“Congregation and Covenant”
Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
Joe Moran

Reverend Tim's sermons in March will be on covenant, as we look at our Unitarian Universalist religion-based promises in having a covenant for all foundation in our relationships.
Music Notes: This month our sermon topics have focused on the meaning of having a covenant with each other. To give voice to this idea of covenant, the Chalice Choir sings Thomas Yeakle's setting of one of the versions of the covenant we recite every Sunday, "Love is the Spirit of This Church." The prelude, "Jubilance," features our Handbell Choir, and the postlude is Douglas Wagner's "Festivity on 'Holy Manna.'" The Gathering will sing the Offertory song "Let the Way be Open" by composer Abbi Spinner McBride.



Terry Acocks, Board President

March should see the completion of our Stewardship Campaign with your prompt participation. This is an exciting time in our church life! Your support through your service and treasure keeps us vital. Here is some technical information. Please note that the pledge form contains two new items: a place to request a waiver; a place to designate a separate pledge to pay the dues to UUA and CER. The corrected amount is \$87.00 per person and should be a separate payment with a notation on your check or other payment. Please remember that a pledge form is required for our accountant, Laura, to list your donation as a pledge per audit requirements.

Also, please know that your 17/18 pledge is paid on July 1st, (when the fiscal year changes) or later in order to count in 17/18. Finally, pledge forms go to the mailbox of Laura Randall, our accountant. Thank you for your financial and service support.

In Fellowship, Terry Acocks



Reverend Tim Barger

In my sermons in March I'll be talking about covenants. Affirming and promoting the Unitarian Universalist principles and purposes is a covenant made by congregations to the other congregations in the Unitarian Universalist movement, a promise of mutual trust and support. The purposes and principles describe the standards of our religion so well that we think of them as a guide for us as individuals, too.

Covenant is seen as a religious word because it's more than a simple promise, and some sacred stories tell about covenants. It's coming to be an everyday word, as well, in Unitarian Universalist congregations because the churches have found that it's by covenant that people work well together. There are covenants at person-to-person level, group covenants, and congregation-wide covenants. There are minister-to-congregation, individual-to-individual, and congregation-to-itself covenants, and many more, at all levels. Covenants can represent a promise, but sometimes they also can spell out what to do when a person or group is out of covenant and how to re-commit. Covenants might have some of the character of bylaws and contracts, but instead of having a legal element, they carry a moral one, promise-based and character-oriented. As we're into a new time of being together with my becoming First Unitarian Church of Toledo's full-time minister, this is the time when we examine the covenants of our church and its committees and people. Over the next year we'll renew some covenants, make new ones, and even revise and rework some covenants that we already have. Being a covenanting community will be a priority.

Your minister, Reverend Tim



Nicole Jonsson, Acting Religious Educator (ARE)

I'm not sure if it was the warm spell, or the regular turning of the calendar—but Spring and Summer RE are on my mind! We've started to plan our yearly RE service (on April 30th), and we've already set the dates for Chalice Camp (!): August 2nd - 4th. A beloved congregational tradition, Mystery Friends, kicks off the first Sunday in March. I love to witness the deep connections across generations this activity creates.

In Fellowship, Nicole Jonsson, Acting Religious Educator

FOCUS BLANKET MAKING

There will be a FOCUS Blanket-making workshop on March 22 at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Bring sharp scissors and a smile. Contact Mary with questions. mjjobbmom@bex.net

COMMON READS

Common Reads with Melissa will take a break in March as Melissa Jeter attends a Commissioned Lay Ministry Retreat sponsored by CERG of the UUA. The retreat will be at the Methodist Theological School in Delaware, OH. Join us again for Common Reads in April.

LAKE ERIE VIDEO

There will be an Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie Video Presentation March 22 at 7 PM in the sanctuary. Join us for this interesting and informative look at our great lake and how we can help save it. Contact Karen Porter for more information. kjport@sbcglobal.net

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 AUCTION

March 11th, 4:30 PM, join us for a magical opportunity to Wish Upon a Star. Join the fun and raise the funds for our beloved First UU of Toledo! Donate food, goods, services, and/or your time! Buy basket raffle tickets, come to the Auction and enjoy delectable edibles served to you at your table, peruse the Silent Auction treasures, sign up for a Fixed Bid event, or outbid your neighbor for a rollicking good time in the Live Auction! Auctioneer Alison Reed is preparing with Jiminy, Pinocchio, Geppetto and the Blue Fairy for a night of fun and fundraising! Don't miss out! Get your ticket now! Contact Susan Smith: 419-874-2838, smith419@bex.net and Chris Stockwell: 419-882-1741, castockwell@bex.net with questions.

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, share locations, and for additional information.

WUFOO

IMPORTANT INFO ABOUT SUBMITTING ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION: We are transitioning to using a form to submit items for the newsletter, church notes, the FYI, and/or social media. We are making this change to streamline the publication process. Please bear with us as we work the kinks out of this system! Submit your next item at: <https://uutoledo.wufoo.com/forms/first-unitarian-communications-request-form>. There is also a link to the form on the church website. If you need help with the form or have questions, attend a demo/training at 10:00 am on March 5th in the Capek room with Judy Murray or contact Judy Murray at fyi@uutoledo.org



2017 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
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| REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN | Happy St. Patrick's Day! | HAPPY SPRING | 1 Ash Wednesday 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group | 2 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal | 3 7:00 pm First Friday Book Club | 4 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 10:30 am Social Action Sat. Baby U 11:00 am Knitting |
| 5 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Adventures Spiritual Growth 10:00 am Wufoo Training 11:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm RE Fellowship and Bake Sale 12:15 pm Committee Shared Ministry 1:00 pm Monday Musicales Auditions 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA | 6 | 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 | 10 9:30 am Knit Wits - Fellowship Hall | 11 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 4:30 pm Auction |
| 12 Styrofoam Collection Daylight Savings Time Begins 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 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 St. Patrick's Day 6:30 pm Dining for Women | 18 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group |
| 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 Spring Begins 9:15 am UU Breakfast (Reynolds Rd Garden Café) APRIL 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 6:00 pm Clean Lake Erie Video Presentation 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 1:00 pm Awareness of Special Needs - offsite |
| 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 | 29 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group | 30 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal | 31 | 1 April 9:00 am Social Action Sat. 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group |

FOCUS LUNCHEON

The FOCUS/Beach House luncheon is March 15th, at The Pinnacle in Maumee. Nancy Mooney and Karen Porter each have a table to fill. If you would like to attend this important fundraiser/luncheon, talk to Nancy or Karen, or go to the FOCUS website and register at one of those tables.

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE DRIVE

Our 2017 pledge campaign is on! Please reflect and give generously to support YOUR church. We Love Our Church! Please turn your sheet in to Laura Randall by March 12th.

POETRY ARTISTRY OF WORDS

Have you written some poetry you would like to share? Do you have a friend or family member who has written some poetry you would like to share? Or maybe you have a favorite meaningful poem to share? Spiritual Adventures will present an Open Mic: Poetry Reading on Sunday March 5th at 10 am. Come to share or listen and be blessed by Poetry – the Artistry of Words. If you would like to read please RSVP Terry at: terrymcc1@yahoo.com, (h) 419-531-2195 or (c) 517-648-5462 or bring your poetry on Sunday morning and, if time permits, we will invite some spontaneous readings.

MEDITATION GROUP

Please join us at 5:30 pm on Sundays, March 12th and March 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 and in our interactions with others. 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 AT THE NEW TIME OF 1 PM to enjoy encouragement, resources, and laughter. For questions, contact: Lynn Lyle. lynnlyle@bex.net

NEW NEIGHBORS

Many, many thanks to Bonnie Olson for shopping and delivering such beautiful new sheets for our New Neighbors, and for the members and friends who provided the money to purchase them. How nice it must be to find such comforts waiting in a new land! Thanks also to those faithful ones who provide rice and beans week after week. We are all so deeply connected with each other.

CANCER RESEARCH

Join us for the Greater Toledo Shave for the Brave Apr 29th at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall to benefit and to support childhood cancer research through the St. Baldrick's Cancer Foundation when our own Connie Christiansen will be a participant. Please contact Connie at ToledoBird@gmail.com or to donate, visit the website <https://www.stbaldricks.org/events/greatertolodoshaveforthebrave2017>

FIBER GROUP

A knitting, spinning, crocheting, and all things with fibers group will be re-starting. Some knit for charity and donate to the different needs in the city. We make hats, mittens, scarves, baby blankets, and preemie caps for hospitals. Join us the first Saturday of each month in the Capek Room from 11am - 5pm. Bring finger foods to share and provide your own drinks. A donation will be collected each time we meet. Please use side door. Questions? Contact cloganmercerc@yahoo.com

SOCIAL ACTION SATURDAYS

Social Action Saturday is Baby University, this month. On March 4th, we will be help prepare and serve food to children and parents from 10:30 to 12:30 PM at 1842 Broadway, on the corner of Broadway and Orchard. We will put together a simple lunch and serve it to families receiving parenting education. *Please wear SOTSOL or UU gear.* Please contact Christopher Kasior at: cmkasior@gmail.com for questions or details. Or see their webpage at: <http://babyutoledo.com/>

PLEASE SIGN IN

If you come into 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, next to the door, above the alarm to let us know that you were here. Also, if you use the key lock box and need help with it or are having trouble using it, please let either Marsha Gamble or the church office know. We would be happy to help you with how to use it. Thank you

BATTERIES

We are no longer accepting household batteries for recycling. Battery Plus Bulbs at Secor/Central in Toledo does accept household alkaline batteries for \$1 per pound.