

SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR NOVEMBER 2017



Sunday, November 5

Immortality and the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics
Worship Associate

Joe Moran
Sierra Webb

In conjunction with the end of life classes being offered by the church our sermon will discuss Immortality and the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics.

Music Notes: For the offertory, Galen DeVriendt will play a song that he wrote himself. In addition, Bonnie Rowe will play the piano for our service.

Sunday, November 12

The Near-Death Experience
Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
Sierra Webb

We read and hear about near-death experiences, such as a person going toward a tunnel of light when in surgery, or a child's report of experiencing heaven after a trauma and then being sent back to this existence. What does the near-death experience say to us about our existence in this earthly realm, and about actual death?

Music Notes: The Chalice Choir will sing *The Greatest Is Love*, by Allen Pote. This anthem, based on the message of I Corinthians 13, reminds us that Love is the most fundamental and everlasting quality.

Saturday, November 18

Transgender Day of Remembrance 7:00 PM

Reverend Tim Barger

This is a time for a solemn reading of the names of transgender people who died over the past year, most of them as a result of violence. We will also affirm that we are a Welcoming Congregation for people who identify as LGBTQIA, including those who are nonbinary about gender.

Sunday, November 19

Hunger Communion "Enough to Eat"
Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
Karen Christie

Before the Thanksgiving holiday, we remember that everyone doesn't have plenty, or even enough to get by. We'll observe a communion calling attention to abundance and scarcity.

Music Notes: Highlights include the Gathering performing *Wish You Were Here* by Pink Floyd, *Let it Be* by The Beatles and *Joanne* by Lady Gaga.

Sunday, November 19

Beverly Cluster Thanksgiving Service 7:00 PM

Reverend Tim Barger

The annual celebration of First Unitarian, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Park Church, and Greater New Psalmist Church, our neighborhood cluster of congregations, is at our church this year. Join in an observance of a community holiday with the combined congregations, brief words from the ministers in the religious service, and a combined choir, followed by cookies.

Music Notes: Beverly Cluster churches will participate. Bonnie Rowe will direct the choir, and the pianist will be Norma Kelling, who is the organist at Park UCC. Music choices will include *A Hymn for the Hungry* by Richard Graves, and *Make Us True Servants* an Irish Folksong arranged by Rhonda Sandberg.

Sunday, November 26

World Religions: The Baha'i Faith
Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
Lynn Lyle

Members of the Bahá'í Faith are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of their faith, this year. We will look at some common ways between Unitarian Universalism and the Bahá'í Faith.

Music Notes: The Chalice Choir will sing the anthem *I Dream a World*, in which Andre J. Thomas has set to music a text by Langston Hughes, which envisions our world embracing peace and equality. Also the Gathering will perform *Blessed is the Spot* a Baha'i Prayer.



Reverend Tim Barger

As Membership has been in my thoughts. We want to be a growing congregation and bring people into our church when they have a newcomer's interest. That energy will help us to move forward, with energy and fresh ideas. I've been working with our board president, Terry McCauley, and our staff on combining some different member rolls into one reliable list. I've also been looking at the requirements and expectations for membership in our church. According to the church constitution, here are the requirements to be a voting member:

- You're at least 18 years old
- You have signed the membership book
- You have made an annual financial commitment of record, a pledge, of at least \$87—the amount that covers an individual's membership in the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Central East Region (along with the provision in our constitution that "It is expected that voting members will give generously"). Waivers can be granted if the pledge is below the minimum—after a conversation with and approval by the minister or the board president
- You have made a payment toward your pledge within the previous 12 months

There are other levels of involvement provided in the constitution besides active voting membership. A person age 14 to 17 who has completed our Coming of Age program can sign the book but cannot vote until age 18. A person who pledges but has not signed the book is a supporter. And a person who neither pledges nor signs, but takes part in "congregational life," is a friend.

People who want to join our congregation are encouraged to take the membership classes, the next of which will be offered beginning in January. But those classes aren't required; a conversation with the minister showing that a potential member knows about Unitarian Universalism and our congregational polity can be enough to sign the membership book, and reading The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide or another general introduction can be enough orientation, and then after signing the book the new member can learn more about church history and other aspects of Unitarian Universalism as a congregant.

The one detail about membership that is not included in our constitution is volunteering, and that's really the core of our bylaws, which describe congregational government and the importance of committee work. There is a need for committees, but there are also many other groups in which you can give of your time and talents—and learn new skills. We're especially looking for people to add to our Sunday preparation, like audiovisual crew, and for people knowledgeable about information technology to help us with equipment and our website. Please ask me for details.

Finally, I thank the members for their contributions of service and money, and I hope that our volunteer involvement for work inside the church, as well as in the larger community, will increase. I appreciate my fellow supporters; as minister, I chose not to be a member because of possible conflicts of interest in my staff role, but Jewel and I do pledge. And we also like our friends and hope that membership will be on their minds.

Giving of ourselves, financially and through service, while bringing new members into our congregation, is our way to continued viability. Let's do what we can to grow a congregation that is diverse in just about every way that diversity is represented. Your Minister, Reverend Tim



Terry McCauley, Board President

November is a month of Thanksgiving! Oh, there are some who say there is one day set aside for "thanksgiving". Why not a whole month? In fact why not a life of "thanksgiving"? Giving thanks, being grateful, having an attitude of gratitude is physically, mentally and spiritually beneficial to us as individuals, but it is also very beneficial to our communities and those around us. How do we go about giving thanks, being grateful, having an attitude of gratitude? Well, it needs to become a habit: A Habit of Gratitude. There are a couple of ways to develop the Habit of Gratitude. First you have to be aware that you have been given something. By virtue of simply being alive, we receive gifts all the time --- a new day, a second chance, a compliment, a helping hand, a friend, sunshine, rain, etc. Take time each night before going to sleep to review that day and remember all the gifts, all the benefits, all the blessings you received that day. And, of course, say "Thank You!" Second to gain even more benefit from this awareness, write down all these gifts or blessings from that day. Keep a Gratitude Journal. Write in it every day or at least a couple of times a week. Do this for only a few weeks and it will become a habit --- a Habit of Gratitude. Third to keep this going and to brighten your life and the lives of those around you, develop the habit of saying thank you every chance you can. Thank everyone who does anything for you; whether it is big or small, whether it is their job or you just recognize the good they are doing. Saying thank you is a free gift you can give another person. Developing a Habit of Gratitude will bring positiveness, confidence and peace to your life and the lives of all those you come in contact with each day. This will enable you to be much more confident and thus be able to give the gifts and talents that only you can give to the world. And we will all be better for it. This we believe will "Foster spiritual growth and compassionate action." Join us as we strive to be "A vibrant spiritual community that achieves growth, visibility, and relevance." THANK YOU! In Fellowship, Terry McCauley



Nicole Jonsson, Religious Educator

The Youth Christmas plant sale has started. We will be taking orders for poinsettias, wreaths, and swags. You can also purchase plants in honor or memory of loved one to decorate the altar for Christmas. Look for the order forms in your church program for details. Order Now Thru Sunday November 26th. All items should be picked up at church Thursday December 7th between 12 and 1 PM or after service on Sunday December 10th. All proceeds benefiting our youth's Boston trip. Also free pantry donation items are needed for middle grades Social Justice Project! This church year, our 3rd-6th graders will be restocking our Free Little Pantry out in front of the church as part of their curriculum. When you are out and about shopping, please consider picking up extra juice boxes, applesauce cups, peanut butter, or granola bars to donate. Your generosity helps those in our immediate community. Collection boxes can be found in our classrooms, or you can give your items to me. In Fellowship, Nicole Jonsson

NEW UU

The Compass Hospitality and Membership committee will hold membership classes again beginning in January. In the meantime, we encourage you to jump right in and attend any meetings and/or events that peak your interest. Sign up for your UU-FYI and follow the church Facebook events page. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway near the kitchen for anyone interested in attending The New UU classes. This year we will host a four-part series. We will meet from 1pm to 2:30 after potluck on Sundays. If you are interested in learning about becoming a member and/or sharing your experiences of membership, please save the following dates on your calendar: January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22.



2017 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 am Compass Mtg 6:30 pm Considering the End of Life 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 11:00 am Knitting/Craft group
5 Daylight Savings Time Ends 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 10:00 am Children's Choir 11:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Fellowship Hour 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	6	7 Election Day 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 7:00 pm Toledo Area Weavers Guild 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice	8 6:30 pm Considering the End of Life 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 Veterans Day 9:00 am Holiday Bazaar 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 
12 Styrofoam Collection / Bazaar 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 10:00 am Children's Choir 11:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:00 pm Holiday Bazaar 12:15 pm Fellowship Hour 12:15 pm Social Justice Committee Mtg 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 The Gathering Planning Mtg - off site 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice Sanctuary	15 6:30 pm Considering the End of Life 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 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 10:00 am RE Council Mtg 4:00 pm Uncommon Study with Melissa 7:00 pm Transgender Day of Remembrance Service
19 Beverly Cluster Thanksgiving Service 7:00 PM 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 10:00 am Children's Choir 11:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Caring Committee Mtg 12:30 pm Grief Circle Support Group 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Service 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	20 9:00 am UU Breakfast (Reynolds Rd Garden Café) NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 1:30 pm Chalice Circle 7:00 pm Leadership Dev Meeting 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice Sanctuary	22 9:30 am Blanket Making 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	23 Thanksgiving Day 	24 7:00 pm World Dining	25 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 1:00 pm Awareness of Special Needs - offsite
26 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 10:00 am Children's Choir 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm 4th Sunday Potluck 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	27	28 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice	29 Considering the End of Life 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	30 1:00 pm Level 1 Food Safety class 7:00 pm Board Meeting	1 December 7:00 pm First Friday Book Club	2 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 11:00 am Knitting/Craft group

MEDITATION GROUP

We invite you to join us at 5:30 pm on Sundays, Nov. 12 and Nov. 26, at the Alzheimer's Association building at 2500 N. Reynolds Road. 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. 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 with Karen before heading out.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Saturday, November 11 - 9 am to 3 pm, and Sunday, November 12 - 12 noon to 3 pm, will be our annual Holiday Bazaar. This is one of our main events to fund the operations of our building and congregation. Be ready for an excellent short-term volunteer commitment full of fun, fellowship, and friends! We will need Helper Elves the up to and during the actual sale. We will need folks to sell raffle tickets, lunch, baked goods, books and crafts. For those who don't enjoy money-handling, we also need "floating" elves between giving breaks to vendors and getting sales slips to the cashier table. Vendors also appreciate help setting up Friday night and packing up on Sunday afternoon. Hint: This is a great opportunity for a *Chalice Circle* to fulfill their service project requirement! Please let Cheryl Garrett know how you are willing to help. Please contact Carol Lehman or Cheryl Garrett to contribute to the bake sale. Think small portions for impulse buys prepacked for sale. It could be something simple such as chocolate covered pretzel sticks, or an elaborate recipe for which you are known. A sign-up sheet for donations will be in Fellowship Hall. Don't forget to come ready to buy some beautiful holiday items while enjoying a delicious lunch.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed November 22nd, 23rd, and 24th in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday.

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department offers a ServSafe® class for all those who volunteer in the kitchen. You will receive a certificate after completing the class. We have scheduled a class to be held here at church in Fellowship Hall on Thursday November 30th from 1 PM to 4 PM. If you volunteer at church or other places where you serve food to the public, or make food for a potluck, please plan to attend this very worthwhile and informative class. It will be open to the first twenty-five people at no charge. Please RSVP to the office so that we will have your name for your certificate. Call or email the office to sign up: office@utoledo.org

NOVEMBER 18TH

Join us in Fellowship Hall November 18 between 4 pm and 6 pm for UnCommon Study with Melissa. We will discuss the book *Nonviolent Communication* by Marshall Rosenberg.

CLEAN WATER

It is imperative that Toledoan's have safe clean drinking water and the Lake Erie ecosystem be allowed to thrive, especially considering the recurring large algae blooms threatening our water quality. See Stefania Czech to sign the Clean Water petition or get more information in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour after service.

KNIT WITS

Friday October 13th was lucky for many girls and boys this year. It was on that day that Knitwit members turned in all their handiwork done in the past year. A total of 79 hats, 35 scarves, 10 pairs of mittens, 1 pair of slippers and 2 shawls were collected. The knitwear was divided between and delivered to LFH and CSB. Thank you knitters! Special thanks goes to Ruth London who, as coordinator of all things Knitwit, makes reminder calls to everyone about monthly meetings and to Sue Hoffman who can't make the meetings but turns in a bag full of things she has knit every time collection is done. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

PERSONAL PRODUCT COLLECTION

There is a desperate need by the female homeless population for feminine hygiene products. A drive is being conducted until November 6th. Please bring at least one item such as tampons, bladder control pads, shampoo, hair conditioner, combs, hair brushes, lotions, soap, deodorant, tooth paste, tooth brushes, etc., to church. See Rita McDougale with questions.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The holidays are upon us! One sure sign will be the Leading Families Home holiday tree in the church lobby on November 5th. It will be adorned with tags identifying a person and a requested gift. As in the past, UU's are asked to pick a tag, obtain the item specified, and return that item wrapped with tag affixed no later than December 3rd. One difference this year (insuring against loss or lapse of memory) is that every tag will have its duplicate hanging on the ribbon. One of the two will have a place for a signature. That one needs to be removed from the ribbon, signed and deposited in the box on the table next to the tree. We want to make sure every person--adult and child--has a really happy holiday! Questions? See Mary Moldawsky or Mary Souther.