

SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER 2017



Sunday, September 3

"Thoughts On Flunking Religion"

Worship Associate

Reverend Saroya King

Melissa Jeter

Religious faith is by nature the most fundamental set of beliefs that one can have. It is how a believer views the world, and is how the believer judges himself as well as the other people, things, and events in that world. It colors everything about them. It is for this reason that people who adopt a faith out of convenience appear so phony, and why it is simply not possible for an individual to have a "religion d'jour."

Music Notes: Sierra Webb and Bonnie Rowe will lead the music part of our service today. The Gathering will perform "We Can Work It Out" by The Beatles.

Sunday, September 10

"Fire Up!"

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Luanne Billstein

As Rev. Tim began his ministry here last February, we geared up, then in the summer we rested up. Now it's time to fire up and live our Unitarian Universalism. The world needs it, and so do we.

Music Notes: Sierra Webb and Bonnie Rowe will lead the music part of our service today. The Gathering will perform "Strange Fire" by the Indigo Girls.

Sunday, September 17

"Good Grief"

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Karen Christie

Sometimes our society depicts grief as a bad thing, to be gotten over with. Grief is an elemental part of humanity, however, an emotional tie that isn't easily separated. We'll look at the good that's in our grieving.

Music Notes: Sierra Webb and Bonnie Rowe will lead the music part of our service today. Welcome back to the Chalice Choir after their summer hiatus. They will perform for us "Dona Nobis Pacem" by David Lantz III.

Sunday, September 24

"Worship, Deconstructed"

Worship Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Lynn Lyle

For this fourth-Sunday service, we'll go "behind the scenes" for kind of an instructional time, explaining the different parts of the order of service and giving a bit of history and theology in the telling.

Music Notes: Sierra Webb and Bonnie Rowe will lead the music part of our service today.



Reverend Tim Barger

Here it is September, the beginning of our "church year." You might not know that this is also starts year 10 for us on Glendale Avenue. And it will be the first full year of my being your called minister. We might be settled in at our decade year, but there's plenty of change in the church.

The Sunday service will be a bit different from the past few years. At the beginning, everybody will be in the sanctuary—the children and youth will be there for the chalice lighting, the first hymn, and story time, and then leave for their religious education time as we begin our congregational greeting and brief announcements. As we did last year, on the fourth Sundays instead of separate religious education, we'll have everybody for the full service.

Besides lighting the chalice, we will also have candles of memory and hope. This is a tradition I'm bringing from the Brooklyn, New York, Unitarian Universalist church I attended before seminary. While we light the chalice as a symbol of Unitarian Universalism, we'll also have a moment to think back to the world and our lives as they have been, and to look forward to a time of beloved community.

And, for most Sundays, we'll have added visual elements, making use of the projection screen so that we can have artistic pictures supporting the words preached (or sometimes PowerPoint "enhancement"), and some song lyrics and the text of other parts of the service projected. If you have photographs or artwork that you would like to contribute to the digital files for us to use, please contact me.

Be aware that we are seeking ways to respect the chalice quilt. The first image projected on the screen was a Tom Sheehan photograph of the quilt. I contacted some of the quilt makers asking if they would like to take the quilt down to restore it and make any needed repairs before rehanging it or possibly adapting it for another location, and they have decided they'd like it to stay where it is at this time.

You'll notice familiarity and change in the music. With Gladys Rudolph's retirement, we began an outside search for a new music director and have a few applicants, but the hiring process could not have been completed in the summertime—and we have some "local talent" interested. So Sierra Webb and Bonnie Rowe have joined to collaborate, with Sierra as music coordinator and Bonnie as accompanist, with both of them doing some directing duties. Their charge is to build the music program, not keep it as it was, so look for them to make changes, too. If you're interested in singing in an ensemble, playing an instrument for services, forming your own band to help, or otherwise being involved with our music, please contact either Sierra or Bonnie.

On the third Sunday of every month at 12:15, we will have a grief circle. Recognizing that many of us carry our grief with us, and the Sunday service doesn't always address directly enough the part of us that is grieving, this is a time to gather and talk about it—or just sit with others who also grieve. Whether it's the death of a close family member, a loved distant relative, or a pet; a relationship that hasn't worked out; illness; or even the loss of a potential change like a job opportunity that fell through, in the grief circle you can share your burden with others, and then at the end we'll have a small ritual.

And yes, there is more to come. Let's think of what we're doing not as rebuilding the church or some kind of "new beginning," but our continued effort to exercise our Unitarian Universalist religion and to make some changes that we hope will bring others in to join us. Your Minister, Reverend Tim



Terry McCauley, Board President

Happy New Year Everyone! What it's not? Well it is sort of a new year. Things are starting up again after the summer hiatus. The annual Committee Fair and Cookie Contest is September 10th. Be there to have cookies, fun, and learn about all the committees and activities we have here at First Unitarian Church.

Chalice Circles are coming again this year. They will start up in October. Now is the time to select a group to join. These small discussion groups are an excellent way to get to know and interact with your fellow church members and enhance your spiritual growth.

Considering the End of Life Workshop will be presented in October and November. The response has been very enthusiastic. It is full at this time. However, if there would be enough interest it may be offered again later in the year.

Spiritual Adventures will have many wonderful and enlightening programs again this year. Watch the weekly FYI for the coming programs. Then be there at 10am. You'll be glad you did.

This is just a quick look at a few of the activities and programs coming this year that 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." In Fellowship, Terry McCauley



Nicole Jonsson, Religious Educator

I've heard time and again that the reason many UU's protest and work for social justice is to make the world a better place for their children and grandchildren. We also want to show them how to go about that important work when they discover causes dear to their hearts. Self-care needs to be in the mix of skills we teach our younger UU's—it takes stamina and a long view to keep one's social justice momentum. Coming together as a community on Sunday mornings can be part of our collective "exhale".

As a church community, we get the opportunity to model worship and fellowship for our children every Sunday morning. As we begin our new "Church Year" in September, children will start RE in the sanctuary the first three weeks of each month, and be dismissed to their classrooms from there. On the fourth Sunday, there will again be an all ages worship service. All youngsters and those young-at-heart are welcome to sit up front on the pillows! In Fellowship, Nicole Jonsson

BLANKET MAKING

We're back at it! There will be a LFH blanket-making workshop in September--specifically Wednesday, Sept. 27th at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome.

FIBER GROUP

A knitting, spinning, crocheting, and all things with fibers group will be re-starting in October. Join us the first Saturday of each month in the Capek Room from 11am - 4pm. Bring finger foods to share and provide your own drinks. Please use side door. Questions? Contact cloganmerc@yaho.com

BOARD GAME DAY!

Mark your calendar! Sunday September 17th will be our next Board Game Day! Congregants bring their favorite board games to share some (mostly) friendly competition and fellowship after coffee hour. Bring the whole family! We've had games ranging from Pie Face to Settlers of Catan, LCR to Chutes & Ladders and Hi-Ho Cherry O. Fun for everyone and open to the public. Stay tuned for more details in the FYI.

RE TEACHERS NEEDED

Shape the future of Unitarian Universalism and TEACH RE! We have two fun, new curricula for K-2 and 3rd - 6th grades. Have you always dreamed of being a Hogwarts Professor? Middle Grades is having fun with the "Harry and UU" curriculum. Younger students enjoy Spirit Play which is launching "Rainbow Children" with a side of "The Peace Rose". The best part? We only ask for ONE of your Sundays a month! Please contact Nicole Jonsson at nicolejonsson@yahoo.com for more information.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00 pm First Friday Book Club	2 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group
3 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 11:00 am One Room Schoolhouse 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Fellowship Hour 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	4 Labor Day 	5 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 7:00 pm Toledo Area Weavers Guild 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice Sanctuary	6 9:30 am Compass Meeting - Fellowship Hall 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	7 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal	8 9:30 am Knit Wits - Fellowship Hall	9 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group
10 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 11:00 am RE Kickoff 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Fellowship Hour 12:15 pm Committee Fair 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	11	12 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	13 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	14 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal	15 6:30 pm Dining for Women	16 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 10:00 am RE Council Mtg
17 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 11:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Fellowship Hour 12:15 pm Grief Support with Rev. Tim 12:15 pm Caring Committee 12:15 pm Social Justice Committee Mtg 12:30 pm Family Game Day 1:30 pm Lift Every Voice and Sing! 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	18 9:15 am UU Breakfast (Reynolds Rd Garden Café)	19 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 7:00 pm Leadership Dev Meeting 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice Sanctuary	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	21 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal	22 Autumn Begins 7:00 pm World Dining	23 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 1:00 pm Awareness of Special Needs - offsite
24 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 11:00 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Fellowship Hour 12:15 pm Fourth Sunday Potluck 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	25	26 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 7:30 pm The Gathering Practice	27 9:30 am Blanket Making 8:00pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	28 7:00 pm Board Meeting 7:30 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal	29	30 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group

MEDITATION GROUP

Please join us at 5:30 pm on Sundays, September 10 and September 24, 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 become more centered and peaceful in our daily lives. Thich Nhat Hanh reminds us, "if we are peaceful, if we are happy, we can blossom like a flower, and everyone in our family, our entire society, will benefit from our peace." Contact Karen at kbchristie@bex.net with any questions.

EVERY VOICE SACRED SONG CIRCLE

The Let us Lift Every Voice and Sing! Every voice is wanted and needed. Come, come whoever you are and sing to the power of the joy within. Even if you think you can't sing, you are welcome to sing with us! Date: Sunday, Sept 17th. Time: gather at 1:30ish. Where: First Unitarian Church -in the foyer or entryway. Hope to see you!

COMMITTEE FAIR

The leadership development committee is hosting its annual committee fair on September 10th after church. Please save the date and join us.

CHALICE CIRCLE

It's time again to start thinking about joining a Chalice Circle. Forms will be included in the orders of service. Bernie Spiegel and Carol Keierleber are co-chairs and will answer any questions you may have about the Chalice Circles. For new members or visitors, Chalice Circles are small groups that meet once a month, under the leadership of a facilitator, to discuss topics of interest. You will be given choices of times and locations. Contact Bernie for more information: bspiege2@gmail.com

COFFEE HOUR

To bring something for coffee hour. 1 st week of the month A-I, 2 nd week J-R, 3rd week S-Z, 4th week Potluck, 5th week mini muffins. Thank you all for bringing something for coffee hour and potluck. Questions? Contact cloganmercerc@yahoo.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

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.

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.

MINI FOOD PANTRY

Our church, led by the Social Justice Committee, will stock a mini food pantry in front of the church for any and all to make use of. If you would like to contribute, please put your non-perishable food items in the box. Note the expiration date on the items--no expired items may be given. Thank you for helping with this wonderful community involvement.

UU AND THE TOLEDO ZOO REDUCING LANDFILL WASTE

Many every-day items such as cereal bags, chip bags, toothpaste containers, Solo cups and plates, and shampoo dispensers can be recycled here. Look for the TerraCycle® bin. When the bin is full, a representative from the ZooTeens program will take it away for processing. Please look for flyers on the Green Sanctuary bulletin board illustrating specifically what can be accepted into the Terracycle® program. Should you need further information, please contact Karen Porter. (kjport@sbcglobal.net) Thanks for helping us to protect our planet!

NEW UU'S

Due to unforeseen circumstances, The New UU classes are on hold. Be watching for new events that will help new people make connections within our congregation. Still coming up: Monthly Compass meeting Wednesday September 6th. Board Games Day September 17

MULTIFAITH COUNCIL

Sunday, September 10 from 3-6PM is the MultiFaith Council Harvest Festival / Compassion Games Pep Rally at Monroe Street United Methodist Church. This year we will have an optional Sufi Universal Worship Service at 3 PM, led by Sara Jobin and Judy Trautman. At 4 PM, there will be Community Garden updates. At 5 PM, vegetarian and chicken soups will be served, along with potluck sides, salads, and desserts. Free and all welcome.