



SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR APRIL 2020



Sunday, April 5

All Music Service

Sunday Service Associate

Mickey Miller

Rev. Tim Barger

Though it won't be the all-music service originally planned for Palm Sunday because the pandemic crisis has eliminated the participation of our full Chancel Choir, our music director Mickey Miller, accompanist Bonnie Rowe, and musicians from our church and other circles will give a music-oriented Sunday service by livestream.

Sunday, April 12

Easter Sunday The 'Born-Again' Jesus

Sunday Service Associate

Reverend Tim Barger

Luanne Billstein

Rev. Tim's monthly series of Jesus sermons will continue with an Easter orientation. He'll talk about Jesus' resurrection and how that Christian centering can inspire Unitarian Universalist humanism.

Sunday, April 19

Earth Day 50 Service presented by Green Sanctuary Committee

Judy Trautman

The 50th anniversary of Earth Day is April 22. On Sunday the 19th, we'll celebrate our earth while we continue confronting one of its effects, disease. How can the Earth Day movement inspire us to be making a better world?

Sunday, April 26

The Other Side of Fear: Lessons from Vietnam and Elsewhere

Sunday Service Associate

David Strickler

Karen Christie

As we approach the 50th anniversary of the shootings of unarmed student protesters at Kent State University and Jackson State College, I want to commemorate those tragedies and share my observations from a recent trip to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam --- observations which no one anticipated 50 years ago. By comparing the current situation to our past fears, we might gain some insight about how to get to the other side of fear.



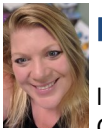
Reverend Tim Barger

I'm a 62-year-old cancer patient, fortunately in remission for the past two years. Most health warnings about the COVID-19 pandemic say that people over 60 are in great danger of becoming infected with the coronavirus, and that those with underlying health conditions are also compromised. Therefore, I have to avoid exposure. Which isn't ideal for ministry. I can't be physically alongside people who are suffering from the virus—or from the other challenges of life and living, including death from other causes, that continue with us. So I'm trying to be in my own home most of the time, a place where Jewel and I know who has visited, and we know our house is sanitary. But I also want to be at the church, where I can better do my work—pastorally and preparing for our reimagined Sundays via livestream on the YouTube Toledo Unitarians channel. Instead, at the house, I have a church directory and a table set up as my desk. I'll be planning to be at the church only a couple of times a week, primarily Sundays for our livestreamed 10:00 Spiritual Adventures Forum, 10:30 for Religious Education, 11 for the Sunday service, and noon for coffee time; and Wednesdays for our new 7 pm Midweek Meditation—though that might be from another location at times, maybe my backyard. (It seems that I'm also producer and director of these streams.) Jewel and I had been scheduled to go to Arkansas in April, taking a two-week break to join my five siblings for a reunion. My sister who lives in England can't get into the US now, and I'm feeling the need to be with the Toledo Unitarians, so no vacation. I've joined the "work from home" population. I can leave the premises if needed. So, not even if you need but if it would be helpful to you in some way, be in touch with me. We can find safe ways to visit. Do reach out—by phone or email if I can be of help to you, either in a practical way or as someone to talk about things. I'll be making some calls, too, and the Caring Circle is working on calling through the church directory, resurrecting the phone tree concept, We want all of you to know we're concerned and checking on you. Be healthy and safe. Rev. Tim



Sandra Kosek-Sills, Board President

If you go outside on a nice day this spring, and you should, you may look up and see a cloud. It will be hard to see, but each cloud has a silver lining. Take a nice deep breath – the silver lining is that with so much less air traffic and an economic slowdown, we are generating a lot less air pollution and the air is cleaner than it has been in years. The reason for it will be temporary – but that is good also. We want everyone to stay healthy and to get back to life as soon as possible. This spring we will have the cycle of rebirth as usual in the natural world, but we may be in for weeks of hunkering down before human cycles return to their usual paths. Be cheerful, enjoy the birds, meditate, read, call a friend, be restored now and then. As I write this we have had one service online, and expect to do more. Another silver lining: these will be saved online, so you can come back to your favorite ones as often as you like. I am grateful for the skills and talents of our minister and staff in these uncertain times, and for their willingness to continue to serve. As president of the board, I am bound to remind you that our congregation in covenant still needs pledges paid so that we can continue to serve our people in times of need such as these. Know that our investments for the operating reserve and restricted endowment are stable. We will continue to pursue the high priority improvements at the church - this may be as good a time as any to get that parking lot repaired. We are a fortunate and strong group, and I believe we can leverage what we have and finish the church year in good shape financially despite the unexpected challenges. Most importantly, I am confident that the extraordinary measures we are all taking will protect the health of those of us most vulnerable. Be well! --Sandra



Kristin Olson, Acting Religious Educator

Greetings from RE! I hope that you are all safe and trying to stay healthy. As you know we are livestreaming the service on Sundays and this Sunday we are going to be livestreaming an RE program for grades 3rd-6th. This will be a continuation of our Timeless Themes curriculum. This curriculum teaches our youth the stories from our Judeo Christian roots from a UU perspective. We are also exploring having several mini lessons that have been previously recorded available at any time during the week. This will enable our youth to review stories that we have done in the past. We are working on recording mini lessons for our old youth too. This will be a continuation of the curriculum Why Do Bad Things Happen? This unit explores how people and cultures throughout time have tried to explain why disasters have happened. This unit seems particularly pertinent considering the pandemic that we are living through. We miss seeing your faces. We will make it through this. In Fellowship, Kristin Olson



Mickey Miller, Director of Music

In uncertain times, I find myself relying on music to connect with my voice and my community. It's a joy to get to see you all on the Livestreams, but I'm eager to make music with our congregation again soon! Keep an eye on out for schedule updates when we can resume ensemble rehearsals, as well as a music ministry strategy meeting. In the meantime, remember to sing along while you wash your hands! In faith, Mickey

NOTES ABOUT MONEY AND PLEDGES

A major challenge during this global crisis is money. Some people have lost their jobs, others have work to return to but are furloughed without pay, and many who still get their regular income have to reallocate so they can cover the unusual expenses of household isolation. With all that, First Unitarian Church of Toledo has greater need, too. We'll figure out how to get by—the board members are smart and there are people with financial awareness, and if we have to, it seems this fits the reason for having "endowment" reserves to turn to. But even to get by, it would be tremendous help to continue receiving your regular pledges and other donations. Last Sunday we collected \$15 for the offering--\$5 from a first-time visitor whom we chose to let in to see us livestream (we're more comfortable turning away members than newcomers) and \$10 from one of our Sunday crew who pledged all their pocket money, \$10, if I would say "Smash that subscribe button" in the sermon. Apparently "Smash ..." is a term of art for teenagers' YouTube channels, and now for the Toledo Unitarians too. That \$15 is far short of a regular Sunday collection, and I know many of you want to give your pledges but haven't. Use the US mail; go to uutoledo.org and find the "donate/pledge" pull-down menu to get to online paying; or contact our bookkeeper, Teresa Langenderfer, by email at bookkeeper@uutoledo.org and she can advise you how to set up automatic donations from your bank account. We're working on other ways to have electronic contributions made, as well. Plus, I think I'm required to say this as we ease into some video services—I have to make a televangelist plea: If the government gives everyone a check, forward yours to the church as seed money ...Finally, with all of the challenges we face, if you have personal challenges that include a need for money to pay a bill for a company or utility that isn't making adjustments for this time, be in contact with me. We have a little bit in the Minister's Discretionary Fund to help people, and I'm willing to use it. --Rev. Tim

OUR CURRENT SCHEDULE ON YOUTUBE

Sundays 10 am Spiritual Adventures, 10:30 am Religious Education, 11 am Sunday Service, Noon Coffee Hour, Wednesdays 7 pm Midweek Meditation

Thanks, all, for picking up on our "instant" transition to livestreaming. We set up the Toledo Unitarians channel on YouTube and got it streaming live the first week! Now we'll continue that, and we'll be making small adjustments as we figure out how to do it better—including some prerecorded videos. At the moment we cannot improve the streaming/buffering issue of it not being as clear and polished as live commercial television. We suffer from local online access being kind of a "party line" situation where the more users in a neighborhood reduce the quality of reception because of the power draw (our solar doesn't figure into it), and many houses of worship are trying the 11 am livestream alongside us, so there's demand on YouTube, too. Please don't forget about us in our "dark" times, and go back to tune in. And—thanks to a member suggestion—we're adding a half-hour on Wednesdays, 7 to 7:30 pm, for Midweek Meditation, which our Commissioned Lay Ministers, Melissa Jeter and David Strickler, will take the lead on. That's a time, in the midst of all that is, for our congregation to come together, take some deep breaths and share in inspiration for the community. We welcome all comments and suggestions. This is definitely a transition in progress. You can help us make it worthwhile. Please look for information on possibly using ZOOM, another communication outlet, in the future.

THINK SPRING/SUMMER!

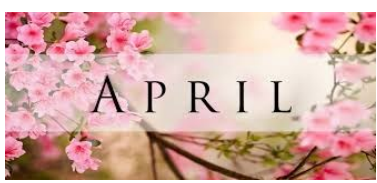
Do you like to garden but don't have space at your home? Would you like to grow your own fresh organic produce? We will have 2-3 garden plots available for the coming season. Email Karen Porter if you are interested: kport@sbcglobal.net

CARING COMMITTEE

If you or a member of our congregation is hospitalized, or need assistance, please let the Caring Committee know. Contact Marsha Gamble, Chair, at: marshagamble548@gmail.com

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

To donate online, go to uusc.org/givetoguest and fill in the information there. Please make donations directly and not through the church collection. Matching funds are available for a donation of \$125.00 or more. On a budget? Consider a monthly pledge. As little as \$15.00 monthly would cover the membership fee and a bit more for this fiscal year. Your pledge would continue until you choose to cancel it, so future cumulative donations would be eligible for the matching funds. Your donations are tax deductible.



2020 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 pm Meditation - YouTube	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures YouTube 10:30 am Children's RE YouTube 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship YouTube 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	6	7 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	8 7:00 pm Meditation - YouTube	9 Passover	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter Sunday 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures YouTube 10:30 am Children's RE YouTube 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship YouTube 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	13	14 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	15 7:00 pm Meditation - YouTube	16	17	18
19 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures YouTube 10:30 am Children's RE YouTube 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship YouTube 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	22 7:00 pm Meditation - YouTube	23	24	25
26 Styrofoam Sunday TBD 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures YouTube 10:30 am Children's RE YouTube 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship YouTube 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	27	28 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	29 7:00 pm Meditation - YouTube	30	May 1	2

MEDITATION
We are holding mediation sessions virtually using ZOOM! MultiFaith Meditation will continue on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30PM. Sunday evening meditation sessions every Sunday from 5:30-7:00PM. If you would like to join us please email kbchristie@bex.net and I will include you on the email invitation. Each session will include a guided meditation, a 30 minute silent meditation followed by a period of reflection. May you all be safe and protected. Contact Karen at kbchristie@bex.net with any questions.

ATTN: ALL WHO CAN SEW
Our hospitals are running out of PPE (personal protection equipment). We can help. Karen Christie has volunteered to pick up surgical sheets from the hospital to make mask covers for our front line workers. If you can assist with sewing, pick-up or delivery, please email or call. We may also need an experienced seamstress to troubleshoot for those of us who want to help but are rookies at the sewing machine. We have the patterns online, and the sheets. We are also still in need of elastic, and or strings for tying. Thank You

ALARM CODE CHANGE
During the time of the pandemic crisis, the building in effect is closed and access to the church building is being tightened. Many who regularly have had codes to the key boxes and alarm will not be able to get into the building at this time. Please understand that this is for the health of those who must be in the building regularly. Office hours are suspended. If you have a need to be at the church, please call or email ahead to confirm that someone will be there to let you in--and, if possible, find other ways than a church visit to tend to your task. If your committee needs to meet, try out a solution that keeps the people at home. Be healthy, and thanks for your attention. --Rev. Tim

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Church office hours are temporarily suspended. Please reach us by phone or email at: office@uutoledo.org, bookkeeper@uutoledo.org, carols@uutoledo.org, or minister@uutoledo.org

MINI FOOD PANTRY
Please remember to bring non-perishable food items and place in the Little Pantry in the parking lot. 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, and hygiene products. Note the expiration date on the items--**no expired items may be given.**

BOARD SPECIAL SESSION
The Board held a special meeting Wednesday evening to go over some points of business due to the pandemic situation. Although churches have been exempted from the shelter in place order, we will be reducing the number of people holding the online services and some of the other elements such as RE will be pre-recorded and/or remotely recorded to maintain physical distancing. So expect a few changes with the service on YouTube but it will still be there for now. Again, much appreciation to our minister, CLMs, and staff for their dedication to serve. Effective Thursday, we will be limiting access to the building to everyone except staff, security, cleaning, and building and grounds. The code will be changed, so please do not attempt to access the building. We hope to have expanded Zoom access soon so we can have committee meetings by conferencing; I am going to try to set up a short half hour coffee hour after this Sunday service with the free Zoom but it has limited capacity. Pastoral care is still available by phone and email, please do continue to let the Caring Circle know if you have needs. The new web site has been constructed and we will be moving to a new host service ASAP. The existing online donation system is preserved on the new site but we are also going to get set up in PayPal and/or Venmo. Effective immediately, if you are on a committee that has a budget, please limit discretionary spending even if you have money left over. We are three quarters in on the budget year, but as yet we are not sure when/whether we can reschedule the auction (we will have to wait at least another month for more on a new date). We have enough operating reserve that I am confident we can weather this storm financially, but it will help a lot if everyone can continue to pay pledges and make collection plate offerings. Most of our financial commitments are to our hard working and dedicated staff. Please take advantage of our new online capability and come to the Toledo Unitarians YouTube channel to participate in Spiritual Adventures, RE, services and meditations. Hope to see you there! --Sandra

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020
This year's Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly will tentatively be held in Providence, Rhode Island, from Wednesday, June 24, through Sunday, June 28.

COMMITTEE ON SHARED MINISTRY
The Committee on Shared Ministry is available to handle your concerns/questions/comments on all aspects of church life. You may contact us by email at: cosm3205@gmail.com or speak directly to any of our members: Phil Teitlebaum, Bonnie Rowe, Rich Miller, Kathy Crowther, Rev. Tim Barger

FLOWERS
Details are being worked out on pick up arrangements for all Easter Flowers that were ordered. Delivery from the greenhouse will probably still be on Thursday April 9th. More information will be coming soon. In addition, we are holding a Mother's Day Flower Sale 2020, now through Sunday April 26th. Order your EXTRA LARGE, beautiful hanging baskets, proceeds benefiting our church. They will be available for you to pick up at church Thursday May 7th. \$25 per basket (choose when they arrive, no color or flower choice on order form) Make checks payable to: First Unitarian Church, (Flower Sale in memo) and mail check with order form to the church.

ORDERS OF SERVICE
Orders of Service will be available electronically each week. Please look for the email with a link to the Order of Service, to read along, while watching our Sunday service on our YouTube Toledo Unitarians channel.

FREE MONEY
Are You Signed Up? Earn free money for your church! Sign up at krogercommunityrewards.com and smile.amazon.com. Email the church office with questions. office@uutoledo.org