



SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR MARCH 2020



Sunday, March 1

Bring My Authentic Self
Sunday Service Associate

Melissa Jeter
Connie Christiansen

Melissa Jeter will talk about authenticity. What is authenticity? What does it mean to bring authenticity into community? How does spiritual growth and transformation affect community perception of authenticity?

Sunday, March 8

Civic Religion, Primaries Edition
Sunday Service Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
Luanne Billstein

Democracy is America's real religion, Unitarian minister A. Powell Davies stated in 1949. Scholar Robert N. Bellah wrote in 1967 that America has "an elaborate and well-institutionalized civil religion." As we get ready for the Michigan and Ohio primary elections, let's look at civic religion and be reminded of the importance of elections and "the use of the democratic process" from our fifth Unitarian Universalist principle.

Sunday, March 15

Sutra, Story, Scripture
Sunday Service Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
Joe Moran

Most religions have sacred texts. In "Sutra, Story, Scripture," Rev. Tim will share thoughts about the writings of different world religions and how common tellings build community.

Sunday, March 22

Muhammad's Night Journey
Sunday Service Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
David Strickler

Lailat al Miraj is a Muslim holiday, celebrated March 22 this year, that celebrates the story of the prophet Muhammad being taken on a spirited horse supplied by an archangel from Mecca to Jerusalem, then to heaven, and finally returning home to Mecca—all in one night. We'll have a telling of the story and consider how it applies in our lives as 21st century Unitarian Universalists.

Sunday, March 29

Friday Noon to Sunday Dawn: Jesus' Death
Sunday Service Associate

Reverend Tim Barger
Karen Christie

Continuing Rev. Tim's series of sermons on Jesus, during the Christian season of Lent he'll address the time of Jesus' death, from Good Friday to Easter—the three days until the gospels say he was resurrected.



Reverend Tim Barger

When I was presenting my monthly minister's report to the congregation's board of trustees in February, board members said that the January report showed well the ministry and work that I do, and they thought the congregation would like to know. So, slightly edited, I'll share that timeline of my activities from about January 9 to February 13 (the board meeting dates) in this newsletter. I took part in three of the four strategic planning sessions on January 11 and February 1. I chose not to take part in the sessions on ministry/Sunday services as I thought my presence would potentially interfere with the participants' free expression. Outside our campus, I preached at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in the annual Beverly Cluster Pulpit Swap on January 19; Rev. Ed. Heilman of Park Church was at First Unitarian. I went with Steve Roberts, a new member of our congregation, as part of a delegation to meet with a staff member of Sen. Rob Portman to talk about climate change (a similar meeting is planned with Rep. Bob Latta's office on March 18). I went to the annual faith leaders breakfast sponsored by the MultiFaith Council of Northwest Ohio (chaired by member Judy Trautman) on February 5. And for the second year in a three-year commitment, I am serving on a Citizens' Review Commission to evaluate and recommend Community Development Block Grants given by the city and sponsored by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. There were also a couple of occasions in bringing the outside community into our doors. We hosted a concert by the Afro-Semitic Experience January 18, the cost of which was underwritten by TEALL; though the proceeds did not cover the cost of booking the band, TEALL viewed the presentation as part of its mission to the congregation and, rather than taking the admission total of more than \$500 back into its account, it donated that to the Minister's Discretionary Fund. I was a speaker for the Sacred Grounds workshop January 26 organized in part by member Karen Porter. I took part in the February Universal Worship February 3, led by Judy Trautman and offered in conjunction with the MultiFaith Council. I also attended selected committee meetings in the congregation, including one with board president Sandra Kosek-Sills January 23 in which we brought many different areas of our communications groups in one room to attempt synergy and better position ourselves for ministry by media. Other activities include my work (slow but determined) to build quality media, including planning to start a podcast and developing some podcast material in advance; one of those activities is reading through our orders of service that start about 100 years ago and gleaning some trivial information to share. The office has had Internet and email challenges which are being resolved by moving to new providers, but in the meantime we have dealt with lost emails and a static-too-long website, so we're eager to relaunch. And our annual member directory, led by Leitha Sackman with help from Marsha Gamble and others, was published; I provided a proofread and added some membership information and other details. I have continued to give pastoral care to individuals through hospital, office, and other visits. Respectfully submitted, Rev. Tim



Sandra Kosek-Sills, Board President

They say March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. I was feeling some lion-like windy weather even in February, so we may be advancing to a point where March doesn't roar in quite like it used to. In any case, I am ready for it to be spring again. This is my favorite time of year because I like watching the outdoors spring back to life, with plants coming up, trees starting to bloom and leaf out, birds returning, and baby animals. The board will be busy this spring working on the next budget, but I also am expecting to enjoy the fun at the annual auction. Please mark your calendars and bring your friends – I hope to see a full room and much merriment. Will you place the lucky winning bid on your favorite item? I wish you all the luck of the Irish at the auction and in all your endeavors this month. In fellowship, Sandra



Kristin Olson, Acting Religious Educator

Greetings from RE! The big news is that Bonnie Olson is back after a 6 week break. Her triple bypass surgery was successful and she is getting back to her normal routines. Welcome back Bonnie! She is continuing her UU curriculum of Timeless Themes which explores the stories from our Judeo-Christian roots from a Unitarian perspective. These stories are in every aspect of our culture including art, music, and literature and it is important that our children know stories that are the foundation of our history. We are still trying to start an Our Whole Lives (OWL) class which looks at every aspect of sexuality and all of the changes that our youth face during this period of their lives. We are either going to have a 7-9 class or an 10-12 class. But we need to know who is interested, so please contact Kristin Olson if you have a youth that would like to be involved with our OWL class. If we don't get enough participants we won't be able to have the class. The pre K-2 are still working on Dr. Seuss books. Thank you for all of your support and understanding during the month of January for myself and my family. In fellowship, Kristin

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.**

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Did You Know? Our "Guest At Your Table" drive began on Sunday, Feb 23 and runs for 3 weeks. This fundraiser to benefit the work of the UUSC takes place in most UU congregations each year. We are asked to symbolically invite guests to our meals by learning about their efforts to help those most in need. This year, the focus is on Women leaders, Strong Communities. Then we are asked to support the work of these and many others around the world by donating funds as we are able, either by mail or online, before the end of the fiscal year. Brochures with mailing envelopes are in the rack on the table in the church lobby along with a few of the optional collection boxes. Those are especially helpful as a way for our children to be included in the family donation. If you need to receive the brochure by mail, contact Carol at the church office. Use the addressed envelope to donate by check, money order or credit card. Be sure to fill in the relevant information on the form, including "First Unitarian Church" as the congregation name. To donate online, go to uusc.org/givetoguest and fill in the information there. Please make donations directly and not through the church collection. Did You Know? Matching funds are available for a donation of \$125.00 or more. (This amount will increase for the next fiscal year.) On a budget? Consider establishing a monthly pledge. This can also be done on the envelope. As little as \$15.00 monthly would cover the membership fee and a bit more for this fiscal year. The pledge would then continue automatically until you choose to cancel it, so future cumulative donations would be eligible for the matching funds annually. (And your donations are tax deductible.) If you have already paid for UUSC membership earlier in this fiscal year, consider an additional donation before June 30 and specify that it is to qualify your combined donation for the matching funds. Contact Carly at UUSC for advice if you're not sure how to do this. (1-617-868-6600)

THE SPIRITUALITY OF VOLUNTEERING

See church work as spiritual work. Using the spiritual lens deepens and enriches our lives so we see all is sacred and we are part and parcel of it all. It also gives us one more tool to open our eyes, our minds, and our hearts to the depths of life so that we might more deeply live and love and be in tune with life's depths—and in this way finding our lives and living transformed. This is why we should be volunteering to do church work: to deepen and enrich our lives and have them transformed. We need leaders and committee/team members. We need many people to carry out our vision and mission statements. To that end the Leadership Development Team is again working to organize a skills bank that includes all current members/friends of our church. This skills bank questionnaire is intended to gather information on the skills and talents of members/friends of the church and help church leaders to identify areas where each person's talent can help the church achieve its vision and mission. By completing a questionnaire you are not committing to any work, you are just giving us information. Link to complete the questionnaire: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe62iYmo2LI4D0UFwR_07Uxzeao4o5MqjXNdBd3ptsKmOEmsQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1
Please help us by completing and submitting it promptly. Paper copies are also available in the church entryway.

AFTERNOON OF MINDFULNESS

Please join us for an Afternoon of Mindfulness in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh on Saturday, March 21 from 12:30PM to 3:30PM at the Buddhist Temple of Toledo, 6537 Angola Rd. Holland, 43528. We will enjoy sitting and walking meditation and Brother Phap Vu, an ordained monastic, will present a dharma talk on the Buddhist concept of emptiness. Light snacks and tea will be offered. Registration is free. Donations to support Brother Phap Vu are welcome with gratitude. Please RSVP to Hydie Ralston at hydieralston@gmail.com.



2020 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 11:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:00 pm Fellowship Hour 12:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal 12:30 pm UFACE Meeting 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	2	3 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Sagan Room	4 10:00 am NOSS Needle Exchange 2:00 pm Buildings and Grounds Meeting 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	5 7:00 pm UFACE Offender Reentry Program 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	6 3:00 pm First Friday Book Club	7 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 11:15 am Fiberwork Orphans knitters and crafters
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 11:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:00 pm Fellowship Hour 12:30 pm Gathering Rehearsal 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	9	10 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Sagan Room	11 10:00 am NOSS Needle Exchange 1:30 pm Chalice Circle 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	12 7:00 pm Board Meeting 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	13 9:30 am Knit Wits	14 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group
15 Styrofoam Collection 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 11:00 am Worship Service 12:00 pm Fellowship Hour 12:30 pm Caring Committee Meeting 6:00 pm Men's Group Meeting 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	16 9:30 am UU Breakfast (Reynolds Garden Café) 6:30 pm Leadership Dev Team Meeting	17 Voting Day St. Patrick's Day! 6:30 pm Meditation - Sagan Room 	18 10:00 am NOSS Needle Exchange 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	19 7:00 pm UFACE Offender Reentry Program 7:00 pm RE council meeting 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 Auction 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 4:30 pm Auction
22 Potluck Sunday 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 11:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:00 pm Fourth Sunday Potluck 12:30 pm Strategic Plan Results 12:30 pm Gathering Rehearsal 5:30 pm Meditation - Off site 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	23	24 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Sagan Room	25 9:30 am Blanket Making 10:00 am NOSS Needle Exchange 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	26 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	27 7:00 pm World Dining	28 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 1:00 pm Awareness of Special Needs - offsite
29 9:45 am Nursery Open 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures 11:00 am Children's RE 11:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal 12:30 pm Strategic Plan Cmte Meeting 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA	30	31 9:30 am UU Breakfast (Silver Moon) 12:00 pm Big Book Noon Group AA Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Sagan Room	1 April 10:00 am NOSS Needle Exchange 8:00 pm Live and Let Live LGBT AA Group	2 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 3:00 pm First Friday Book Club	4 10:00 am Women's Slice of Serenity AA Group 11:15 am Fiberwork Orphans knitters and crafters

MEDITATION
 Please join us for meditation at 5:30PM on Sundays, March 8 and 22, at the MemoryLane Care Services building, 2500 N. Reynolds Road (corner of Pickfair and N. Reynolds). 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. We invite you to join us for our MultiFaith meditation group 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. 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." Tuesday meditation will be canceled whenever the church building is closed due to weather related issues. In the Event of inclement weather on Sundays, please check your email before heading out or contact Karen at kbchristie@bex.net with any questions.

AUCTION
 Come enjoy "The Luck of the Irish" auction -- Sat., March 21, 4:30. Plan on attending and bring friends. Tickets are \$15, which includes finger foods. Cash bar. Donate items for silent auction and/or events and activities for the live auction. Volunteering at the auction is a hoot. Can you do an Irish jig? Let us know. We need to auction a rainbow of beautiful items, artful events, helpful services, vacation destinations, theme luncheons and/or dinners, outdoor adventures, tasty baked goods, and more. Let your imagination soar. Simply submit a donation form (available in the church office or electronically in the FYI) and give it to a committee member: Gail Conrad, Krista Schneider, or Judy Paschalis. All donation forms need to be in by Sun., March 15, 2020! Thanks so much for your consideration. And may the luck of the Irish be with you! Gail Conrad, Auction Acquisitions, 419-824-0917, Judy Paschalis, Auction Co-Chair, 419-346-4895, Krista Schneider, Auction Co-Chair 419-536-6691

AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE
 The first Sunday of each month we celebrate birthdays with cake and ice cream following church service. On the fourth Sunday we continue to have our monthly potlucks.

CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION SESSION
 The results of the four Focus Groups Sessions for the Strategic Plan will be presented Sunday, March 22 at 12:30 pm. Please plan to attend and identify your three top priorities or add a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity or Threat of your own for the committees to address. We welcome your input! Colette Cordova, Chair Strategic Planning Committee

PRISONER REENTRY DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES
 More than 95% of the U.S. prison population will be released at some point, with approximately 600,000 returning yearly, hundreds of which to Lucas County. While some may argue the timing of their return, no one can argue the fact of their return. Will they return better, the same, or worse for the experience; and upon return what will and should be the community's response? Please join the discussion at First Unitarian Church for a three part documentary film series and dialogue on the challenges and opportunities communities face in receiving these returning citizens. The series is titled: Reentry: Restoring Communities, Piece by Piece and the dates are Thursday's March 5 and March 19, 2020 from 7 pm to 9 pm in Fellowship Hall. The returnee population profiled on these dates are: the general offender population, the mentally ill, and sex offenders respectively. The series is free and open to the public and sponsored by Unitarians Fostering Active Community Engagement, Toledoans for Prison Awareness, the Social Justice Sub-Committee of the Association of Catholic Priests and Safe Haven. Expert and professional resources will be present and light refreshments served.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020
 Are you interested in attending this year's Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly? It will be in Providence, Rhode Island, from Wednesday, June 24, through Sunday, June 28. While the plan for Toledo's service that Sunday is to simulcast the GA service, you could be there in person and wave to Toledo. Besides services (including the annual Service of the Living Tradition, in which Rev. Tim will be among those recognized for achieving full ministerial fellowship), there are many workshops, social activities, and the plenary sessions in which we govern our organization. There are also programs for youth. And, though there is expense involved with registration, travel, and lodging, if you go as a delegate there is some help available from First Unitarian. There can be personal reward from taking part in Unitarian Universalism on the national level; consider going as a representative of the Toledo Unitarians. Early Bird registration, with some price breaks, ends March 15, so now is the time to express interest. Contact our board president, Sandra Kosek-Sills (s_e_kosek@msn.com) if you're interested or for more details.

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

MEN'S GROUP MEETING
 Several members have expressed an interest in forming a First Unitarian Men's Group to build community, promote friendship, provide support, and discuss issues related to men in society. Our first meeting will be held Sunday, March 15 at church.