



SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR NOVEMBER 2020



Sunday, November 1

Civic Religion: General Election Edition

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

The United States gives reverence, in a religious way, to its signs, symbols, traditions, and ways of governing. Our last "in-person" service on March 8 was the Primary Elections edition of "Civic Religion." Now comes the General Election, and we'll examine some of the sacredness of democracy.

Sunday, November 8

Sigh

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

Post-election: A sigh of relief, will we face more of the same, or might we still be waiting for final results? Let's try for some calming while we prepare for what might come.

Sunday, November 15

Jesus Saith

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

The series on Jesus from Rev. Tim's viewpoint as a humanist will continue with attention to the words of Jesus, red-letter editions, and other ways we might "hear" the words of Jesus.

Sunday, November 22

A Service in Commemoration of the Quatercentenary of the Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

The 400th anniversary of the Plymouth landing won't be much like when our church celebrated the 300th. Unitarian Universalism descends from the Puritans and Pilgrims; how do we hold our history?

Sunday, November 29

Thinking Shepherds, Pilgrims, and the Late Bronze

Melissa Jeter

This sermon is about deliberate thinking on the new world Unitarian Universalists could build and surrendering to the call to use your one precious life for the "things" that matter. There may also be some stories about seminary.



Reverend Tim Barger

Do you have the feeling that we're in for a rough November? There could be many unknowns related to the election. It might take longer than the time to which we're accustomed to know who will be the president come January. If the incumbent president is voted out, we might not know how smooth the transition to inauguration will be. And whatever judicial-, legislative-, and executive- craziness done in November by a party about to lose power could make us wonder what can even be reformed beginning in 2021. We kind of need a prayer meeting to counter other prayers, don't we? But instead, let's look to science, to compassion, to people who have the best interests of all in mind and at heart to make the change we feel the world needing. Some say that Unitarian Universalism is a religion in which we're familiar with not knowing. Whether you accept that it's a religion of seekers and sometimes finders; you view it as a movement advocating that, regardless of particular beliefs, we all take the side of love; or you come for the fair-trade coffee, insightful sermons (yes, I went there), and compassionate community—this "chosen faith," as Revs. John Buehrens and Forrester Church put it, can support you when all you see is a world, or your own life, in turmoil. We can't come together yet, but we can be with one another as technology and in-person social-distancing guidelines allow. Let's make the world better even if it's only by treating one other person as you would be treated. Blessings. TK



Sandra Kosek-Sills, Board President

For Indigenous Peoples Day this year, I made time to read An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, which was last year's UU common read. It is a difficult book to read – I'm glad I have also recently read White Fragility, which helps break down resistance to reforming one's understanding of historical narratives as told by the dominant culture. I suppose I had always understood on some level that the United States' march across the continent resulted in significant loss of life by indigenous people, including their children and elders, but this book lays it out very unavoidably. It makes our myth of an original Thanksgiving shared by white settlers (our UU spiritual ancestors the Pilgrims) and Indians much more sinister ... as the settlers go on to steal the food and the land that produces it, once they are shown its bounty. Rather than taming the wilderness, we merely took over the farms and deer parks already established by the original inhabitants. Do those ideas make you uncomfortable? Why do you think that is the case? What can we learn together about how to center the narratives of the BIPOCs in the US, and here among us? This year as we express our gratitude, send some as well to the people who were here before us shaping these lands we call home today. In Fellowship, Sandra



Mickey Emch, Director of Music

Sending socially distant hellos from the music ministry! While we hoped to begin bell rehearsals, Lucas County's "red" status means its safest to wait for any group rehearsals. I encourage anyone interested in saying "hello!" to join our Thursday evening meetings on Zoom! There, folks can share how their fall is going, find opportunities for virtual music, and have an hour of fellowship. If you or someone you know is interested in getting involved in our virtual performances, email Mickey at musicdirector@uutoledo.org. In fellowship, Mickey Emch

Events: Weekly Zoom Fellowship : Thursday 7:30, Meeting ID: 860 7671 0839, Passcode: 337073



Saroya King, Interim Religious Educator

Dear First Unitarian Church: It is a privilege to work with Dr. Tim and all the Staff at First Unitarian. I'm not a stranger to the area of Religious Education. It's an exciting vocation in the Church. It has my total support. I hope to bring my experience and education and my love for Unitarian Universalism to allow the members to reinforce the notion that, "We Believe, And We Do What We Believe". I at least want to start a small, but bright burning fire on this journey. Join me, and please put on your seat belt. Talk Soon, RE Roya

BIPOC VIRTUAL GATHERING

If you identify as Black, Indigenous or a person of color (BIPOC), you're invited to join us for the Central East Region's BIPOC gathering happening two Mondays of the month at 6:30pm ET. Our conversations focus on topics like wellness and resilience and our goal is to center BIPOC experiences and create space to explore our UU experiences. Please email Sana Saeed, ssaeed@uaa.org or Hope Johnson at hjohnson@uaa.org for zoom information. Dates for Fall Gatherings: Nov. 9th & 23rd, and Dec. 7th & 21st.

POINSETTIA AND WREATH FUNDRAISERS, CHOCOLATE BARS TOO!

We will once again hold our annual poinsettia and wreath fundraiser. Proceeds will go to the church general fund. Mail in your order to the church office by November 8th. Donations are also gladly accepted for residents at an area nursing home that we have been gifting flowers to for a number of years. Order pick up will be by appointment on Tuesday December 15th, between 12:30 and 1:30. At that time we will also have World's Finest Chocolate bars for \$1 a piece, which a number of you have requested. They make great stocking stuffers! Get your orders in soon! Thank you!

TERRACYCLE RECYCLING

In response to several questions from our members, the Zoo is still collecting Terracycle items for recycling, but only in the container at the Anthony Wayne Trail gate. The ZOOTEens still meet in small groups to sort the items. They have lost a few sponsorships so the list of items is shorter. Still collecting #6 cups, juice drink pouches, oral care items, food pouches, a few very specific pet food packaging, Brita products, inkjet laser printer cartridges, and other items. For a copy of the flyer that lists everything, contact Karen Porter, or check the collection container at the Zoo.

CURRENT ZOOM/YOUTUBE SCHEDULE

You can watch all of our Sunday services and other streamed productions by going online and searching for YOUTUBE. From the YOUTUBE webpage you can search for Toledo Unitarians and either tune in live at the appropriate time or watch previous recorded versions of our services, spiritual adventures, meditation, etc. In addition, we are also holding live virtual meetings for Spiritual Adventures and Multifaith Meditation on ZOOM. For Zoom meetings you will need a link and meeting ID. You can participate online or call in by phone. Have questions? Please don't hesitate to email the church office at office@uutoledo.org Don't forget to look for your Sunday's Order of Service in Saturday's special FYI email.

LUCAS COUNTY ON RED USE THE CHURCH ZOOM ACCOUNT FOR MEETINGS

Reserve your meeting space by emailing our office at: office@uutoledo.org. The email, meeting ID, and passwords are like building codes and keys. As your meeting is scheduled, you'll receive Zoom's login info. There are several ways to connect to Zoom. You can go to <https://zoom.us> and sign up for free. Or you can access Zoom meetings from the links in the special FYI's that are emailed. Read the FYI and follow the directions clicking the links. You can also call in if you have the meeting ID and password. Nationwide phone numbers are: (253)-215-8782 or (301)-715-8592. We look forward to much congregational connection with Zoom. See you online! For now, all in person meetings are postponed at church.

COFFEE HOUR

For the next stage of our congregational electronic engagement, we're giving the Sunday Zoom numbers for coffee hour here so you can have them ready on Sunday. On Zoom.us or your Zoom app, "join meeting"/connect to the meeting ID 816 909 4223 and use the password 43614. We're attempting to use the same meeting ID and password every Sunday, so (though Rev. Tim would like you to attend the 11 AM service) you can tune in at coffee hour time without having to watch for the numbers that morning on our YouTube Toledo Unitarians channel. Our 11 am service will continue to be on Toledo Unitarians on YouTube. We use Zoom to livestream on YouTube. Thanks for being active in our telUUvangelism.

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

PLEDGE ONLINE

Check out our new updated webpage: uutoledo.org and find the "donate/pledge" pull-down menu to get to online paying or contact Teresa at bookkeeper@uutoledo.org

GET INVOLVED! MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Ministry will be held on Zoom, Thursdays at 7:30 pm. This group is open to anyone interested in music at our church. Those interested in short and long-term goals for creating a beloved music community should please email Mickey for more information at: musicdirector@uutoledo.org.



2020 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	2	3 Election Day 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom 	4	5 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom	6	7
8 Last Day to Order Poinsettias 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	9	10 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	11 Veterans Day 	12 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom 7:00 pm Board meeting via webex email Arun for link	13	14
15 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	16	17 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	18	19 7:00 pm RE Council via webex email Arun for link 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21
22 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	23	24 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	25	26 Thanksgiving 	27	28
29 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	30	December 1 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	2	3 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom	4	5

MEDITATION

We invite you to join us for our Tuesday MultiFaith Meditation group on ZOOM. Simply type the link on the invitation below to join us from 6:30-7:30PM:

Topic: Tuesday MultiFaith Meditation, Time: 6:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81464488349?pwd=MUKyUi9CNTQzT3AwWXZCSTUwZHY1QT09>

Meeting ID: 814 6448 8349, Password: 575494, Dial by your location: +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Below is the link for our every Sunday meditation from 5:30-7PM. I hope you will join us!

Topic: Sunday Meditation, Time: 5:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85722228065?pwd=WmlrMGZiN1c5VnI0aWFvc2RFUGc2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 857 2222 8065, Password: 309700

Dial by your location: +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Thich Nhat Hanh reminds us, "mindfulness is the kind of light that shows us the way. Mindfulness gives birth to insight, awakening, compassion and love."

For questions, please contact Karen Christie at kbchristie@bex.net.



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

ORDERS OF SERVICE

Orders of Service will be available electronically each week. Please look for the Saturday FYI email with a link to the Order of Service, to read along, while watching our Sunday service on our YouTube Toledo Unitarians channel. Also links to our ZOOM interactive meetings can be found there.

STYROFOAM

Good news! Styrofoam is again being accepted at the Ann Arbor drop-off station, Mondays only from 9-6. If you have been holding your Styrofoam at home, you can now bring it to the church to be transported to Ann Arbor. Contact Karen Porter to make arrangements for drop offs. (kporter41@aol.com) or Check out this link for more information:

<https://www.recycleannarbor.org/divisions/drop-off-station/recycle-ann-arbor-drop-off-station-now-accepts-specialty-items-mondays>

DIRECTORY

A second printing of our Toledo Unitarians 2020 Directory is about to start so if you have any address, email address or phone number changes you would like included in the next printing, email them to [Leitha Sackmann](mailto:leitha77@yahoo.com) now. (leitha77@yahoo.com) Put "Directory" in the subject line of the email so they won't be missed.

MINI FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your continued support of our parking lot 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, hygiene products, etc. Note the expiration date on the items-**NO EXPIRED ITEMS MAY BE DONATED**. This is a Lucas County Health Department rule. When we find expired items in the pantry box, they are disposed of. We are not allowed to pass out expired items. Please do not put expired items in the pantry box. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP - IMAGINING NEW POSSIBILITIES PLEDGE DRIVE

A gazebo in our big backyard? Greater participation in Social Justice causes? Expanded music and RE programs? A redesigned sanctuary? More speakers on important topics? Are you imagining new possibilities at First Unitarian of Toledo? Please help us reach our goal of 100% participation and mail your pledge form asap to help make your visions a reality! No pledge is too small, every dollar is appreciated, and every member and friend is valued. Thank you, Chris Stockwell and Mike Davisson, Co Chairs

RE CHANGES

Saroya King accepted the position of our interim RE Director. RE Roy has a wonderful depth and breadth of knowledge and experience and an engaging personality that we welcome to help augment the RE program. She is a teacher and a minister, and as a member of our congregation she accepted the RE offer stating that she sees a responsibility for Toledo Unitarians to move up during the pandemic and do more to assure that the church will continue to be sound when we all can come back together. We deeply thank Kristen Olson for her leadership and story telling and congratulate her on her full time employment at the YMCA. We also thank her mom, Bonnie Olson for her devotion to the RE program and all her preparation and work on flannel boards for the telling of Bible stories from the Unitarian perspective during the months before COVID. Thank you, all three, for your contributions to our church family.

ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY CENTER

We have been asked to help prepare and serve meals for Toledo's people of need at St Paul's Community Center. This can be a few hours one or two days each month or more often if you can. Contact Phil Zepp (philz@bex.net) if you could help. (See Rev Mary Sullivan's letter at the Facebook page "Unitarian Universalists of NW Ohio" for more details).

CONGRATULATIONS MELISSA JETER

Melissa Jeter has been accepted to the Methodist Theological School of Ohio and has received a full scholarship to study. There are still some fees that Toledo Unitarians can help cover for Melissa. She has provided the board with a detailed, itemized list that adds up to \$1,845 of additional expenses. We have created a line item in the church special expenses listing to help support Melissa's studies. If you would like to contribute to show our support for her as a congregation, please send checks to the church office and write "Melissa Jeter ministry" in the subject line. We will let you know as we approach her requested funding amount. Congrats Melissa!