



SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR DECEMBER 2020



Sunday, December 6

A Religious Education Conversation

Rev. Dr. TK Barger and Interim Religious Educator Saroya King

RE Roya is still getting oriented to being our teacher. She and Rev. Tim will use the sermon time for a question-and-answer time about religious education.

Sunday, December 13

All-Music Service

Music Director Mickey Emch, Accompanist Bonnie Rowe, Toledo Unitarians & Special Guests

Twice a year, we set aside our standard service to have a time to perform and listen to music, knowing that often it's music that helps us rise into our spiritual nature. Our All-Music Service will celebrate the season with a morning of traditional songs and stories. Though we are far apart, we've enjoyed coming together remotely to celebrate the holidays musically.

Sunday, December 20

The First Birth of Jesus

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

Let's look at the story of Jesus' arrival. This is part of an ongoing series of sermons about Jesus from the viewpoint of a humanist.

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

We'll have a Christmas Eve service that features well-known Christmas music performed between readings about the season, the baby Jesus, and our church.

Sunday, December 27

Better than Fruitcake

Commissioned Lay Minister David Strickler

We will celebrate National Fruitcake Day by considering the spiritual dimensions of this oft-derided holiday dessert. Perhaps we will even discover some connections to Unitarian Universalism.



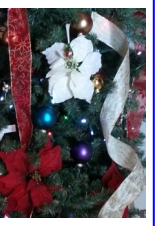
Reverend Tim Barger

Here it is December, and we've been subject to pandemic conditions since the middle of March. At the end of December, we'll have had 42 of our 52 Sunday services in 2020 conducted online, most of them livestreamed. Church has changed. When we can come back, it will not be a return to pre-Covid ways, but adjusting to include electronics as a regular part of our Sunday services. We know that everybody won't be ready to return to in-public closeness at the same pace, so when there are in-person services we want include our web congregants. We won't be turning the corner into telUUvangelism, I don't think, but we will continue being on video. It will be special, though, when we can have greater connection even though we might continue with face coverings and fist bumps rather than wide smiles and hugs. For this month, though, and probably a few months after, we'll still be having services on YouTube, celebrating the holidays in ways we safely can, and hoping that 2020 will be behind us without it leaving too much of a mess—though it has destroyed many lives in its course. Remember the bigger story of community and celebration during the holiday season, and be safe. In Fellowship, TK



Sandra Kosek-Sills, Board President

We find ourselves at the end of an eventful year. It may seem difficult to be cheerful if one is steadfastly maintaining physical distancing as we are in our church community. The holidays will be very different. I am always and ever the optimist and I choose to be happy that we have made it to this point, and I hold out hope for the future when we can come back together again. Keep an eye out for the updated directory. This may be the year to dust off the card-sending tradition and send cards to your church friends that you might have otherwise seen in person. Let's all continue to do our part to stay apart but stay connected as we celebrate the joys of the season. Please join us online for our musical service, and for the holiday service. Stop by in coffee hour and say hello. Have a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and/or any other joyful holiday of your choosing. And here's hoping for a Happier New Year! In Fellowship, Sandra



Mickey Emch, Director of Music

Wishing everyone safe and happy holidays from the music ministry! This December, we will continue our Thursday night music fellowship at 7:30 on Zoom for all who would like to drop in. For those who are interested in being a part of our virtual performances this winter, please 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. Please join us December 6th for our RE Discussion Service. 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@uua.org or Hope Johnson at hjohnson@uua.org for zoom information. Dates for Fall Gatherings: Dec. 7th & 21st.

CHOCOLATE BARS AVAILABLE DECEMBER 15TH

Poinsettia and wreath 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! Email the office if you would like some candy bars.

POINSETTIA DONATIONS - THANK YOU

Poinsettia Donations: From Linda Campbell in honor of Phil Podlish, From Carol Keierleber in memory of Dawn Parsons, From Eugene and Patty Naujock in memory of their parents.

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


THANK YOU SHOPPERS

Thank you to all who shop Amazon and designate our church as your preferred charity for AmazonSmiles. We have been issued a \$59.81 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2020. Are you signed up? Go to smile.amazon.com and start earning money for your church with every purchase you make. Thank you also to all who shop Kroger and designate our church as your preferred charity. We have 50 households that participate. We have been given \$196.19 in total donations for the 01-Aug-2020 to 31-Oct-2020 time period. Are you signed up? Go to kroger.com, click on Community Rewards and start earning money for your church with every purchase you make. Questions? Email the church office at: carols@uutoledo.org.





2020 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	2	3 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom	4	5
6 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom 8:00 pm Men's Group Meeting - Zoom	7 Pearl Harbor Day 	8 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	9	10 Hanukkah Begins 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom 7:00 pm Board meeting via webex email Arun for link	11 	12
13 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	14	15 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	16	17 7:00 pm RE Council via webex email Arun for link 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom	18	19
20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	21 Winter Solstice 	22 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	23	24 Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas Day 	26 Kwanzaa Begins 
27 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	28	29 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	30	31 New Year's Eve 	1 January 2021 	2

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=WmlrMGZiN1c5VnlOaWFvc2RFUGc2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 844 9427 4033, Password: 143811

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>

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.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Are you ready for Jingle Bells? Despite the pandemic, we are fast approaching the holidays, and there is greater need than ever. Again, as in years past, we would like to help give some clients of Sylvania Family Services (SFS) a very Merry Christmas, but it seems it will need to be a little different this year in order to ensure the safety of all. SFS has asked donors to give gift cards to the families in place of gifts and meals. As with everything these days, we are adapting. We have tried to think of some way to make this as fun as shopping for the families and wrapping those gifts, but we just cannot come up with anything but an appeal to your always generous spirits! In response to this need, we ask you to donate as you can to help these families. We have requested two families of 4-6 people each. The cost for food is estimated at \$25/person, and the cost for gifts is suggested as \$50/person. If you can help, please send a check made out to First Unitarian Church of Toledo to arrive by Monday, December 7th, with 'Christmas Families' on the memo line. We will purchase gift cards for our families and deliver them to Sylvania Family Services. Any gift, large or small, will be extremely welcome, and should we collect more than we need for 2 families, we will consult SFS about helping an additional family. Thank you for considering this important holiday tradition to help others in need, while giving ourselves the gift of giving. Chris Stockwell and Luanne Billstein, Co-Chairs

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).

STEWARDSHIP - IMAGINING NEW POSSIBILITIES PLEDGE DRIVE

As the season of miracles and giving begins, now would be a great time to mail your pledge to First Unitarian enabling us to transform the wonderful ideas we have imagined together into reality. It is important that everyone have a vote at the annual meeting, and to do that, we need your pledge, no matter the size. Every pledge is appreciated, and you are valued at First Unitarian. We would like to wrap up the pledge drive before the holidays, so please mail your form asap. Your loyalty to First Unitarian in thought, word and deed, presence and 'presents' is deeply appreciated! We have much to be grateful for, and we will be together again! Be safe and be well! Chris Stockwell and Mike Davisson, Co-Chairs

UU MAGAZINE

December 13th is the deadline to make address adjustments to the member list that is used to mail the quarterly UU World Magazine. Are you receiving the free magazine? Please send any address corrections or additions to the church office at: carols@uutoledo.org by December 13th. Thank you



MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR, HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

