



SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR JANUARY 2021



Sunday January 3

Index 151

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

On January 1, 1870, a journal that became important and influential as a publication on free religion published its first issue, in Toledo, edited by Rev. Francis Ellingwood Abbot of Toledo's Independent Society, which predated our First Unitarian Church but supplied some of our congregational DNA. While learning about that Index, in this Sunday service we'll share some plans for the launch of our new video blog/podcast, also to be called The Index.

Sunday, January 10

Pandemic Parameters

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

Vaccination against Covid-19 now possible, and the potential for spread from family gatherings is lessened with the holiday season at an end. It's time for another Sunday service check-in on the state of the disease and how our congregation might emerge from shutdown.

Sunday, January 17

Safe and Legal

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

"Safe and legal" is an important phrase. We want Covid-19 vaccines that are safe, and we want legal processes so that, in an orderly manner, it gets to those who need it. "Safe and legal" historically applies to women's choice about pregnancy and having children, as on January 22 we'll reach the 48th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade that included choice in the Constitutional right to privacy. And "safe and legal" is the wish we have for the actions of our government and its protection of the people, with Joe Biden and Kamala Harris being inaugurated as president and vice president on January 20. We'll examine "safe and legal" in this Sunday service.

Thursday, January 24

Jesus' (Social) Justice

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

Another entry in the continuing series on Jesus seen through a humanist lens, the Sunday service examines Jesus' social justice. It's said he hung out with the people who were seen as undesirables, and the biblical story of Jesus' anger is his reaction to commerce in sacred places. Does Jesus' justice apply today?

Sunday, January 31

Pandemics, Mystics, and Change

Melissa Jeter

Let's consider what we have learned about the 2020 pandemic. Though many of us have never been through a pandemic before this year. It is not the first time that the world has gone through a pandemic. What are some themes you directly experienced of transcending Mystery and Wonder during the pandemic of 2020? These mystical themes tend to arise in such times as we have been through and changes in our society occur sometimes as well. Melissa will compare lessons from the pandemic of the 14th century with the twenty-first century. In addition, she will highlight, the mystic Julian of Norwich compared to UU Mystics.



Reverend Tim Barger

2021, what will you bring us? Vaccines for everybody would be nice. A new presidential administration and the three branches of the federal government working effectively on behalf of the people would be a great help—and that the "fixing" time after transition of getting past the bad faith of the previous power holders be minimal. And a return to community (see vaccines) and in-person congregational activity, please. 2021, do you have hopes for the year? Health of the planet and all that is on it would be ideal; how much can be done to advance that in your year? What about a heart of compassion that might mean we treat people better no matter what might be the circumstances and power imbalance? Maybe meaningful work with hands and head—in an atmosphere welcoming to the arts and to science, to entertainment and knowledge of life, the universe, and everything? Even if you have only the "low bar" of change over your year, 2021, that will be plenty of improvement over the next 365 days; that lowness is just about anything, as we remember the conditions of the past year. What's the maximum? Try this maxim, from French psychologist Émile Coué a hundred years ago: "Every day in every way, I'm getting better and better." Can we make that a goal? There's a lot of getting better to cover for us to return to the normality we envision, not the reality in which we've been living. So, 2021, can you make these things happen: The "rebirth" of our congregation, invigorated and ready to re-envision how we "do church" on Sundays and the other six days of the week. Along with a rebuild of society—locally, nationally, and worldwide—that models our Unitarian Universalist principles. We ask for peace, love, and understanding, 2021; how is that configured for you? In Fellowship, TK



Sandra Kosek-Sills, Board President

It's a new calendar year, and we are halfway through our church fiscal year. I am pleased to report that expenses are less than expected and pledge payments are keeping pace. So we are operating in the black for the first half. Many thanks as always to those of you who pledge and follow through. I also appreciate our friends and supporters for your contributions of time, energy, or donations. As a board, we feel that although we are doing well in our cash flow, we need to do some rebalancing of the budget as it was very difficult to anticipate that we would still be in remote church for this long or how that would affect revenues and expenses. Stay tuned for more information; it's possible we may need a special congregational meeting to make adjustments, or if not, we may still hold one or more informational meetings around budget issues in February as we begin looking at next year's budget. This coming year holds promise for winding down the pandemic restrictions, what a relief that will be! In the mean time, stay safe and well and stay connected. In Fellowship, Sandra



Mickey Emch, Director of Music

Happy New Year from the music ministry! As we ring in a new season of hope, I'd like to extend an invitation to connect virtually with music at First Unitarian. We'll have opportunities for experienced musicians and newbies alike. I also encourage anyone interested in saying "hello!" to join our Thursday evening meetings on Zoom. There, folks can share how their winter 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



Saroya King, Interim Religious Educator

Three packets for religious education "home schooling" have been sent to families who recently were active in RE. If you'd like a copy, contact me at: saroyaking@yahoo.com or call or email the church office. Thank you. Happy New Year! RE Roya

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.

SPECIAL STYROFOAM LOCAL COLLECTIONS

According to a Toledo Blade article Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful and the Rotary Club of Toledo will offer six polystyrene foam collection sites. It needs to be collected and sent to specialized recyclers and cannot be put in your home recycling bin. The drop-off sites will accept packaging and coolers. All stickers and tape must be removed. Food-product Styrofoam, such as egg cartons, takeout containers, and plates or cups, will not be accepted. Each drop-off event is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 6: Kroger at 7545 Sylvania Ave., Sylvania, Jan. 8: Eastern YMCA at 2960 Pickle Rd., Oregon, Jan. 9: Girl Scouts of Western Ohio at 460 W. Dussel Dr., Maumee, Jan. 13: Ottawa Hills Municipal Building at 2125 Richards Rd., Jan. 15: Kroger at 8730 Waterville-Swanton Rd., Waterville, Jan. 16: Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful at 1011 Matzinger Rd., Toledo

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

Join us for coffee hour Sundays on Zoom.us or your Zoom app, "join meeting"/connect to the meeting ID 816 909 4223 and use the password 43614. We're using 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. 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 any member or the church office.

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

CHOCOLATE BARS STILL AVAILABLE

Email the church office to make an appointment to purchase World's Finest Chocolate bars for \$1 a piece. We still have a limited quantity and they can be frozen for a sweet treat this winter or given to your Valentine next month.

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.

January 2020 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day 	2
3 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	4	5 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	6	7 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom	8	9
10 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	11	12 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	13	14 7:00 pm RE Council via webex email Arun for link 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom	15	16
17 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	19 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 7:00 pm Board meeting via webex email Arun for link 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom	22	23
24/31 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	25	26 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	27	28 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom	29	30

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 OPENED OR 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.

GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

This year, as in years past, our church family came together to generously provide gifts for several Toledo families. Due to the pandemic, instead of choosing tags for specific needs/wants for individuals from our "gifting tree" in the foyer, this year Sylvania Area Family Services (SAFS) asked us to collect monetary gifts so we could provide gift cards to allow these families with children to purchase anything from food to clothing to toys to household items or whatever they want and need to have a truly merry Christmas. You all love to give! We were able to provide for 2 families, a total of 2 adults and 7 children. You generously gave more than was needed for the minimum suggestion for the families, so we were able to give an extra \$25 /person for each family. PLUS...we had even more money gifted! We were able to provide \$50 gift cards to 12 senior citizens who are registered with SAFS. And that's not all! We were able to provide a nice donation to the Northwest Ohio Food Bank, enough to provide 4,500 meals to help families who are struggling. But wait...there's more! Kathy Deanda knitted and generously donated 75 of her colorful hats for us to gift to SAFS along with the gift cards. Toledo Unitarians sure do love a chance to be good to others! Thanks to all who gave gifts, as well as to all of the elves that made this possible. Luanne Billstein and Chris Stockwell

STEWARDSHIP - IMAGINING NEW POSSIBILITIES PLEDGE DRIVE

As the season of miracles and giving continues, 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 with 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 Davison, 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).

UU YOUTH AND TEENS

For our young people: the national YUUP online experience is now up and running. Youth can register for online drop-in activity at <https://www.uua.org/youth/youth-ministry-roundtable/drop-youth>. Also see <https://theyounguu.com/> a blog by a UU teen, for other UU teens.