



SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR MARCH 2021



Sunday March 7

Putting Passion in Compassion. Social Justice Committee Sunday

Judy Trautman

It is time we put the passion back in compassion. As a daily practice, it is far from a wimpy word. It requires courage and humility, a willingness to try, fail, and keep on trying. We will reflect on how to be more passionate about our compassion in Greater Toledo Compassionate Community. We will review how First Unitarian Church engages in Social Justice and how you might become more passionately involved.

Sunday, March 14

Universal Grace

David Strickler

Biographer Sarah Smarsh recently described country singer-songwriter, Dolly Parton, as a cultural icon who embodies "grace". When I was a teenager, I learned about the Lutheran theological concept of "salvation by grace through faith". What do these two meanings of grace have common? Do Unitarian-Universalists receive grace? More importantly, how can we give grace to others?

Sunday, March 21

A Missed-Education: Unitarian Universalism & Religious Education

Saroya King

March 21, 2021 is the designated Religious Education Sunday. Today's Service will be a collection of short stories about the opportunities we as Unitarians may miss. Missed education misses the mark for our faith.

Sunday, March 28

All Music Service

Mickey Emch

We are looking forward to sharing our upcoming all-music service with the congregation! This program will bring together our virtual ensemble, soloists, and guest musicians to celebrate the spring season. As we honor Passover and Palm Sunday, we hope you'll join us for a remote service centered around strength, grace, and making a joyful noise in fellowship.



Reverend Tim Barger

For the entire month of March, I'll be away from the church. Before the pandemic conditions hit our area last March, the board had approved my request for a "mini-sabbatical" for March 2021. The original intention was for me to have a month to concentrate on writing, but doing ministry in Covid time has meant that I couldn't develop the project to the extent I was planning to be able to write. So I'll do some other writing, and reading, and giving a little bit of time just to relaxation. Though this won't be the length of a more-common half-year or so sabbatical and especially not a "take a year" project, the regular arrangements apply. I won't have work responsibilities for the month. David Strickler as our Commissioned Lay Minister will be the point person for any pastoral care needs, and Melissa Jeter, our Student Minister, will be involved according to David's discernment. To let David know of pastoral care situations, please contact him or our Office Manager, Carol Slomka. Saroya King will be available for religious education and parental aspects as she's our Interim Religious Educator. Mickey Emch will continue the music program, with some extra work and, I hope, your contributions to put together a prerecorded all-music service. Sundays in March will have traditional services of our church years. March 7 will be our Social Justice Committee service, led by Judy Trautman. David Strickler will give a service as Commissioned Lay Minister on March 14. The twice-a-year Religious Education service will be March 21, led by Interim Religious Educator Saroya King. Then March 28 will be the Palm Sunday All-Music Service. I'll be back for April 4, which is Easter Sunday. Other and more general aspects of First Unitarian will be handled "as usual," primarily with Carol's skills as administrator, and our board of trustees headed by Sandra Kosek-Sills. My mini-sabbatical is an experiment, in a way—a tryout exploring possible annual work immersed in projects rather than saving up so much sabbatical time to have an extended leave. As I've never done work that provided for sabbatical time, I'm sure I'll also investigate the more traditional ways at some point, but not for this March leave. Realizing the limitations imposed by the pandemic, though, this very well could be a staybattical, without my leaving the area. If we see one another, please treat me like a civilian during sabbatical time. If you do want to contact me specifically, please go through Carol Slomka; she'll know how to contact me for the month and has good judgment as to whether others can cover for me. And if there is something dire, of course I'll return my attention to our Toledo Unitarians needs. In Fellowship, TK



Sandra Kosek-Sills, Board President

I am always an optimist, but it's easier to be an optimist in the springtime. Better weather is coming; at least it should, as our in like a lion/out like a lamb March progresses. This winter has seemed longer than most because of the pandemic. With case counts decreasing and vaccinations increasing, we may once again offer the indoor spaces at the church once Lucas County goes to level orange. With good weather coming, we may once again find opportunities to meet at the church in a safer, distanced, outdoor way. As this long winter turns into spring, please read up in the UUFYI, stay in touch with your church friends, and stay connected as I expect our status will be as changing as much as the notoriously variable weather of March. In Fellowship, Sandra



Mickey Emch, Director of Music

Voices needed! Have you been curious about singing in a virtual performance? Not sure how to get involved? This spring, we want YOU to lift your voice with us. All you'll need is a recording device (smartphones work perfectly!) and a pair of reliable headphones. You can "drop in" for the anthems that fit your busy schedule without a full year's commitment or reach out if you have a solo idea in mind. Reading sheet music is a plus, but not necessary. Contact Mickey for our beloved music community's resource packet today! For anyone interested in visiting our weekly fellowship hour, we meet via Zoom on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. Meeting ID: 860 7671 0839 Passcode: 337073 In fellowship, Mickey



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. Be Sure to join us for our RE Service on Sunday March 21st! Thank you. RE Roy

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.

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

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.

CHOCOLATE BARS STILL AVAILABLE

Do you have a \$1 that just wants to be spent? Do you love chocolate? Get your candy bars now from the church for our World's Finest Chocolate candy bar fundraiser sale. Email (or call) the church office to make arrangements to purchase yours now. (office@uutoledo.org) We have a limited number of each flavor. Treat yourself or your favorite person with some scrumptious chocolate.

THANK YOU KROGER SHOPPERS!

Thank you to all who shop Kroger and designate our church as your preferred charity. We have 48 households that participated. We have been given \$189.42 in total donations for the 01-Nov-2020 to 31-Jan-2021 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.

PLEASE LET US KNOW

Please let Reverend Tim or the church office (office@uutoledo.org) know after you have received your second dose of the Covid vaccine. We would like to keep track so we know when we can all safely get back together in person with our church family. Thank you



2021 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	3	4 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom	5	6
7 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	8	9 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	10	11 7:00 pm Board meeting via webex email Arun for link 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom	12	13
14 Daylight Savings Begins 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	15	16 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 7:00 pm RE Board meeting via webex email Arun for link 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom	19	20 Spring! NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
21 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	22	23 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	24	25	26	27 Passover
28 Palm Sunday 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	29	30 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	31	April 1 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom	2 Good Friday	3

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

Styrofoam is again being accepted at the Ann Arbor drop-off station, (2950 E Ellsworth Rd.) You are able to drop off your items Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. In addition, Jarvis Gamble is filling in for Karen Porter while she is recovering from knee surgery and is making runs there with deliveries from church. Contact him (jarvisgamble@gmail.com) or Check out this link for more information: www.recycleannarbor.org for information.

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.

STEWARDSHIP WRAP UP

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! The 2021-22 Stewardship Campaign, Imagining New Possibilities, has officially concluded, and as Co-Chairs we are super grateful for the wonderful support of our congregation, and for the outstanding efforts of the many volunteers who helped with the campaign. Calling each member of the congregation turned out to be a special bonus, especially during this challenging time of the pandemic. We got to know each other better, many good ideas were suggested for our future. We are pleased to report that 87 pledges have been received, which is two more than last year, and of these, 15 were new pledging units. As of 2/11/21, our bookkeeper Teresa has received \$191,031. All things considered, this is a particularly good outcome, and we are so thankful for all who were able to pledge! *To vote at the Annual Meeting you must send a pledge form to Teresa or contact her to make arrangements for your pledge. If you simply make an on-line donation or send a check to the church, she has no way of knowing if that donation is a pledge, and you will not be designated as a voting member. Please look for your 2021-22 pledge on your quarterly statement, and if you think you have pledged, contact Teresa for clarification. Remember, it is never too late to make a pledge, and every pledge no matter the size is welcomed. We look forward to being together again in our church building as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, know that all are valued and important in our congregation, and we will continue to imagine new possibilities together! Mike Davisson and Chris Stockwell

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Registration for General Assembly (GA) is now open. GA is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates. The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution making the 2021 UUA General Assembly a 100% virtual event. Let's reach record-breaking attendance June 23-27, 2021! If you would like to be a delegate for Toledo Unitarians for this year's event, please let Rev. Tim or Sandra Kosek-Sills know.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Ministry is held Thursdays at 7:30 pm on Zoom. This group is open to anyone interested in music at our church. Email Mickey for more info at: musicdirector@uutoledo.org.

CARING CIRCLE

Caring Circle Committee is looking for a chair or co-chairs with one of the responsibilities being writing the FYI updates about health challenges, news, or other needs that we as a congregation might direct our attention to. Obtaining information from the minister, a Caring Circle member, congregant or Facebook. Other duties include contacting the person with the need and, with their consent, share with the Caring Circle and the congregation, and work in coordination with the minister, especially if there is a serious situation so he can offer pastoral support with a phone call or a visit. Also conduct bi-monthly meetings on Zoom or in a face to face Circle meeting to establish goals and projects and update concerns. If you are interested in this position, all of which can be done from the comfort of your couch at home, and want to help your church family, please contact the church office.