



SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR MAY 2021



Sunday May 2

Thoughts on Prayer

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

The first Thursday in May is the National Day of Prayer—and, from the American Humanist Association, the National Day of Reason. On this Sunday before those national days, Rev. Tim will talk about thoughts and prayers, how that has become a trite and even politicized phrase but there's good intention behind it, and if prayer and reason can coexist.

Sunday, May 9

Feast

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

On April 11, our "Scorching Heat" service marked the beginning of Ramadan, a month when Muslims give greater attention to sacredness such as through fasting and greater study of their holy text. This "Feast" service is for Eid al-Fitr (starting sunset May 12), the end of Ramadan and a time when the fasting ends and Muslims can celebrate with a feast. May 9 is also Mother's Day, a time in the West for a family feast (yes, often, that means Mother prepares that, too). Food is central to religion; let's feast on Sunday words.

Sunday, May 16

Botany and Beauty

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

How will our annual Unitarian Universalist flower ceremony take place? A year ago, we had a video of Toledo Unitarians' photos of flowers. We still can't practice "bring one flower, bunch them all together to illustrate community, and leave with a different flower," so instead the talk will be on botany and beauty—what is it that makes a flower and leads us to appreciate it? The evening of May 16 is also the start of Shavuot, the "feast of weeks" in Judaism; apparently there's plenty of debate about particulars, but in general it celebrates the first spring grain harvest (at which the tradition is to eat dairy products) and also came to be the traditional day of the giving of the Torah to Israel.

May 16 is also the date of our annual meeting, which will be held on Zoom following the YouTube service.

Sunday, May 23

Burying Grounds, Graveyards, and Cemeteries

David Strickler

As we approach Memorial Day, I want to undertake a grave examination of burial places and headstones in the United States. These hallowed locations, and the monuments they contain, give interesting insights into the religious beliefs and philosophical attitudes of the past four centuries. According to Rev. Peter Gomes, "a cemetery ought to be a place where the living and the dead mix on happy and useful terms ... that celebrates life and beauty, nature and mysteries of God."

Sunday, May 30

You Can Never Win or Lose, If You Don't Run the Race

Mary Bilyeu, Blade Food Editor

The universe has a way of making sure you get where you need to be. There's no other way to explain how someone with an English degree and no professional cooking background got a job writing recipes, and how a girl born and raised in New York City has found a home in Toledo. Mary Bilyeu, the Blade's Food Editor since 2014, will tell the tale of how she followed a motto taken from an oldie-but-goodie song from the 1980s to overcome family obstacles, challenge herself when opportunities presented themselves, and become a proud Ohioan (even though her car still sports University of Michigan plates).

We're planning for this Memorial Day weekend service to be held outdoors, behind our church building—the first of one outdoor service a month through the summer, while the others will still be by YouTube only (this one will have a YouTube simulcast). People are welcome to come and observe social distance. We request that you wear masks, as all congregants are not vaccinated. You can bring your own chairs, but we can provide some seating too. If you want to picnic after the service, bring your own food. If the weather is bad, we won't have a rain date.



Reverend Tim Barger

What's happening at First Unitarian Church of Toledo in May 2021? A little more than "normal," if there is such a standard in our second year of Covid-19. As you see elsewhere in this newsletter, our Sunday services have variety and some special occasions. We begin with a service in advance of the National Day of Prayer that includes some distinction about the broad definition of prayer in Unitarian Universalism. The next week we celebrate the end of Ramadan, a holy month in Islam, and at the same service we have gratitude on Mother's Day. Then comes the annual flower ceremony on May 16, the same day as our congregation's annual meeting. David Strickler will preach for a grave—but not somber—service on May 23. We'll end the month on Memorial Day weekend in a special way: moving the Sunday service outdoors and welcoming guest speaker Mary Bilyeu, the Blade's food editor; it seems appropriate that with her subject specialty, you might bring some food with you and stay on the grounds after the service for a social-distance picnic. There won't be a rain date, so let's hope the weather cooperates. This month also brings a special marker for me. In October 2012 I moved to Toledo as the new religion editor of the Blade. Our congregation's Dave Murray, then the Blade's managing editor, was one of my editors, and Tahree Lane and Jim Bradley were colleagues there; they're all retired now. Mary Bilyeu joined the staff while I was there, too. I worked at the Blade for 4-1/3 years, then was called by the Toledo Unitarians to be the full-time, settled minister. So I resigned from the newspaper (not enough time there for retirement) and joined the folks at 3205 Glendale. Well, at the end of May, I will have been "on the job" as the minister for 4-1/3 years, and I'm not looking for another position. When I left the Blade, it felt like I didn't have more original ground to cover; new stories and different topics, yes, but the routine was getting to be the same—and the higher-ups didn't draw on the breadth of my background outside of religion, especially in media administration and research. Plus, as I've learned, my position was high on the list for a possible staff-cutting layoff. As the senior minister of First Unitarian Church of Toledo, while we have religious calendars, I don't feel restricted in the mix of Sunday services I plan. There are so many other aspects of ministry here that relate to my communications and library studies that I feel valued for reaching for more rather than sticking to a category. And the people in the congregation are, in a way, readers I know—and people who appreciate my pastoral aspect, too. Thanks for calling me to be the Toledo Unitarians' minister—and let's keep going, together. In Fellowship, TK



Sandra Kosek-Sills, Board President

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims! Did you know that Unitarian Universalist tradition can trace back to the Pilgrims? Theirs was a "free" church as ours is – in the sense that each congregation can make its own decisions internally, without being ruled by outside bishops or other denominational hierarchy. Please do your best to help make our decisions for the coming year and be with us as we hold our Annual Meeting once again over Zoom. Watch for the Annual Report mailing which should include the Zoom information, or the UUFYI. We will again be mailing out paper ballots for the actual voting, after the Annual Meeting itself which will be the forum for explanations and Q&A, and any last minute changes to the ballot questions. Friends and supporters can also request this information from the church office if you are interested. And watch out for the June bugs! In Fellowship, Sandra



Mickey Emch, Director of Music

Spring greetings from the music ministry! As we look forward to warmer weather, we hope to involve more guests in summer music services. If you'd like to be involved in performing during a service, please contact me at musicdirector@uutoledo.org. For the time being, we're continuing to practice caution and avoid group singing, but folks can join us for Zoom fellowship hours on Thursday nights at 7:30pm. All are welcome, nothing is required. Be well! Thursday Zoom Fellowship Info: 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. In Fellowship, RE Roy

PLEDGE ONLINE

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

CARING COMMITTEE

If you or a member of our congregation is hospitalized, or need assistance, please let the Caring Committee know. Contact Joann Hartough or any member.

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 and help empty our last box! Thank you

VOICEMAIL

The church currently has a new voicemail box set up on our current phone system. You may leave messages at the main church number: 419-381-6999. Or for faster service, please continue to reach us by email at: office@uutoledo.org or carols@uutoledo.org or you may reach Teresa, our bookkeeper, at bookkeeper@uutoledo.org. Thank you.

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

ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 16TH, 1PM

On Sunday, May 16, at 1 pm, we will have our Annual Meeting via Zoom. In addition to the election of board members, church officers, nominating committee members, and the budget for the next fiscal year, there will be three issues (see below) that require a congregational vote. We will provide the list of eligible voters in the UU-FYI in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out for that to check your status. Our bylaws state that to be eligible to vote, a person must have 1) signed the membership book and 2) made a pledge. Feel free to email Tom Sheehan, our church secretary tom43623@gmail.com, if you are unsure whether or not you've pledged. If you have not pledged and would like to, Tom can also send you a pledge form. Just fill it out and snail mail it to the church, or scan and send to the bookkeeper, bookkeeper@uutoledo.org. In the coming weeks, members will receive our annual report by snail mail. Voting will also be done by snail mail as it was last year. Members will receive the ballots by snail mail. Below, you will see the three issues that members will vote on. Detailed language will be sent with the annual report. The issues are: A change to our bylaws establishing two new membership categories: "honorary member" (nonvoting) and "legacy member". The addition of the word "inclusive" to our vision statement. If this addition is approved, our church's vision is that we will become "An inclusive, vibrant spiritual community that achieves growth, visibility, and relevance." The endorsement of a "land acknowledgement". This statement acknowledges the indigenous history of the land that our church currently occupies.

2021 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 Happy Mother's Day					1 May Day 
2 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	3	4 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	5 Cinco De Mayo	6 Nat'l Day of Prayer 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom	7	8
9 Mother's Day 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 Zoom Call	10	11 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	12	13 Eid-Al-fitr 7:00 pm Board meeting via webex email Arun for link 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom	14	15 Armed Forces Day
16 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	17	18 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	19	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 pm RE Board meeting via webex email Arun for link 7:30 pm Music Ministry Fellowship Hour via Zoom	21	22
23/30 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	24/31 May 31 Memorial Day 	25 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	26	27	28	29

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/8572228065?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, You are able to drop off your items there on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. In addition, Karen Porter is delivering items there from the church. Contact Karen at kjport@sbcglobal.net or 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.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY TEALL SPONSORSHIP

Virtual General Assembly Registration- for those of you who would like to register for the virtual GA which will be June 23-27, 2021 the TEALL group will cover the \$200 registration fee. The procedure is to register on your own (www.uua.org/ga/registration) & submit the order without payment by selecting the "pay by check" option. Then forward your registration confirmation to me. If you have any questions, please send me an email. Thanks! (jarvisgamble@gmail.com)

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.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

In Our annual fundraiser supporting the work of the UUSC will be virtual this year. If you have internet capability go to: UUSC.ORG/resources. From there you can read the Stories of Hope, watch interviews with the four guests, print a template for your own collection box and donate online through PayPal or a credit card. Donations by mail should be made out to UUSC with "GUEST" or "GAYT" in the memo field. Send to: UUSC, PO Box 808, Newark, NJ 07101-0808. Contact Carrie Baum at 419-537-9325 with any questions.

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.

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.