



# SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR DECEMBER 2021



## Sunday, December 5

### Our Invented Holidays

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

Unitarian Universalists came up with the holidays Chalica and Illumination, giving attention to our religion in the crowded holiday season and, perhaps, taking away some of the seasonal spirit that comes with well-established observances. We'll look at invented holidays and why they're begun.

## Sunday, December 12

### All Music Service

Mickey Emch

Nearly two years apart has left a great need for music in the sanctuary. While we have not yet been able to come together to sing and rehearse, we invite all members to enjoy a morning of holiday music from our guest artists. Hear holiday readings and celebrate the season with a service of harp and violin music from the Toledo Symphony's Cheryl Trace (violin) and Nancy Lendrim (harp).

## Sunday, December 19

### Clara Barton 200

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

Clara Barton, a Universalist who as a nurse founded the American Red Cross, was born on December 25, 1821, 200 years ago. We'll tell her story.

## Sunday, December 24

### Christmas Eve

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

Our annual family Christmas Eve service celebrates the season while giving some spirituality to remember that there's more than gifts and feasting at holiday time.

## Sunday, December 26

### Who are UUs: Remembering, Identity, and Community

Melissa Jeter

Who are Unitarian Universalists? We bring ourselves to this faith with many different experiences. So, we interpret Unitarian Universalism through a variety of lenses. The symbols we use, the stories we tell, the information we gather from various sources, and the narratives about our faith ancestors as well as theologians convey meanings about our identity and community. In this sermon, seminarian Melissa Jeter will use symbols, stories, as well as narratives about faith ancestors and ideas from current theologians to re-member identity and community in Unitarian Universalism.



## Reverend Tim Barger

December is upon us—the final month of 2021, filled with the holiday season. At First Unitarian, we're hoping to add to the holiday spirit, and there is some tradition for us to revive between now and New Year's Day. On November 28, with "Season's Greetings," we start the celebratory push; on that day this year, both Advent and Hanukkah begin. During December we usually would have a dedicated service for religious education, but our RE program is on temporary hold—and we are figuring out how to relaunch including hiring a new RE director—so instead of children's RE, on December 5 we'll look at "Our Invented Holidays," the UU-originated Chalica and Illumination, including some thoughts on why some Unitarian Universalists wanted their own holiday rather than the many that are on the calendar near the end of the year. On December 12 we'll have our wintertime all-music service, led by Mickey Emch, our music director who has had to innovate more than most of us for Covid-time, I'd say—what to do about choir, how to provide weekly music, in what ways congregants can take part in the music program. Then on December 19, the Sunday before Christmas, we'll get to some Universalist history for the 200th birth anniversary of Clara Barton, the nurse who founded the American Red Cross. At that service, it's likely that we can also have child dedications; a congregation child or two had to wait a year for this thanks to the pandemic. We'll have a Christmas Eve service, in-person (we hope) at 5 pm on December 24. Then our student minister, Melissa Jeter, will close the year, leading the service on December 26. Most of us are trying now for "more normal," I'd say—but not "back to normal" as Covid won't just go away. With masks and distance and good vaccination percentage among the Toledo Unitarians, I think your church is a safe place to be among others, and it can help your spirit, too, through both religious practice and human interaction. If you haven't already, consider that now might be a good time to add 3205 Glendale back to your itinerary. Rev. Tim



## Sandra Kosek-Sills, Board President

We are coming to the middle of the church year and I am very glad that we have been able to return to services in person in time for the holidays. I know the pandemic is not over, but I hope we can start the process of being back together and supporting one another. May your holiday season provide you with the company of loving friends and family, and please know that your church family is here as well. I am looking forward to a New Year building and rebuilding our connections within the congregation and out to the community at large. Happy Holidays! Sandra



## Mickey Emch, Director of Music

After our first day back, I have to tell you how moving it was to see so many faces in the sanctuary. We are all grateful for your continued support and connection from afar, but your physical presence was dearly missed at 3205 Glendale. I am so eager to celebrate our holiday season with you and return to our group music making as soon as we are able. For the month of December, we will ease into regular Sundays services with solos, small groups, and guest artist performances. All those interested in being a songleader, please contact me at musicdirector@uutoledo.org. After the new year, those interested in singing are welcome to join choir rehearsals in our sanctuary. The dates and details will be published in our January newsletter. Thank you all for your patience, your grace, and your commitment to our Unitarian music ministry. In Fellowship, Mickey Emch

## CHILDREN'S RE

We are continuing to solicit RE volunteers for when we can resume a religious education program. Please contact Arun Nadarajah (nadarajah@uutoledo.edu) or Michael Davisson (davissonma@gmail.com) to volunteer for Children's RE.

## MASKS REQUIRED

The COVID-19 Subcommittee has revised the Church Use Guidance for Fall 2021. This will apply to any condition of church use: small groups, meetings, services, etc. If you have any questions, you can contact Sandra Kosek-Sills, Teresa Betts-Cobau, or Mary Souther for more information. Please note masks must be worn in our building at all times. **In addition, please remember that you must sign in, anytime that you enter the building.** Thank you

## 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.

## BRUNCH BUNCH

THIRD MONDAY BREAKFAST BUNCH (TMBB) will meet at 9:15 AM every month at the Reynolds Garden Cafe on Reynolds Road near Airport Highway. The event open to UU's and friends for the purpose of sharing good company and good food. Phone Carrie Baum at 419-537-9325 or email carriebaum@toast.net for more information.

## STAYING STRONGER TOGETHER

By now church members and supporters should have received their stewardship packet in the mail. The packet contains letters from your campaign chairs and church leadership, information about this past year and the importance of this year's campaign, as well as a revised pledge form. The form no longer has a separate line for the UUA/CER dues. If you contributed \$100 towards the dues last year, please add that amount to your regular pledge. We hope you will take time to read through the packet, fill out your pledge form and return it asap. We set a campaign time frame each year so that we can complete the campaign in a timely manner to avoid campaigning year-round and to have a firm commitment for next year's budget process. We also hope you will set aside time to share your thoughts with the church member who will contact you during the campaign. The board wants to hear from YOU. We want to learn about your connection to First Unitarian this past year. We want to know what the church did well and what we should expand, improve, or discontinue. Think about how you want to be involved when we are back together again. How can we best build back our beloved community and member involvement? Your answers will be confidential and will be compiled into a general report for the Board. This will help inform the board as they develop the budget for the next fiscal year. If you have not received the packet yet, please contact Carol Keierleber(Keierleber@aol.com) Michael Davisson (davissonma@gmail.com) or Carol Slomka (carols@uutoledo.org) with your current address to have one mailed to you. Carol Keierleber and Michael Davisson, 2021/22 Stewardship Co-Chairs

## UU FILM CLUB

Do you love films? Do you enjoy talking about films? If so, join our UU Film Club. In this time of COVID we will view the selected film on our own and meet by Zoom to discuss. Eventually, we will transition to meeting in person for a viewing party. If you have any questions, contact Judy or Dave Murray at bookie@bex.net

## CHRISTMAS ADOPT A FAMILY

Thank you to all who participated. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

## COMMITTEE ON SHARED MINISTRY

The Committee on Shared Ministry is still open for business. We offer a means for conflict resolution involving all aspects of church ministry. Suggestions/concerns should be submitted to us via the Committee's email address: cosm3205@gmail.com. Concerns will be handled in confidence. Committee on Shared Ministry: Rev. Tim Barger, Phil Teitlebaum, Acting Chair, Kathy Crowther. Want to become a member? Please let Rev. Tim or Phil know.

## TERRACYCLE RECYCLING

The Zoo is still collecting Terracycle items for recycling, but only in the container at the Anthony Wayne Trail gate. Contact Karen Porter, or check the collection container at the Zoo.

## CHILD DEDICATIONS

A tradition at First Unitarian is to have child dedications on the Sunday before Christmas. Last year, with our being virtual only, we weren't able to have dedications. If you'd like to have a member of the family dedicated (not baptized) into Unitarian Universalism in our congregation, please contact Rev. Tim so we can make arrangements for the 11 am in-person service on December 19.



# 2021 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 11:00 am Knitting group
5 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day 12:00 pm AA Group Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	8	9 7:00 pm Board meeting	10	11
12 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	13	14 12:00 pm AA Group Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	15	16	17	18
19 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube AND IN-PERSON service in Sanctuary 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom	20 9:30 am Breakfast Bunch, Reynolds Rd. Cafe <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	21 Winter Solstice 12:00 pm AA Group Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas 
26 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube AND IN-PERSON service in Sanctuary 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	27	28 12:00 pm AA Group Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 	1 New Year's Day 

## MEDITATION

In December the Sunday evening meditation group will meet on Dec. 12 and Dec. 26 from 5:30PM to 7:00PM. The Tuesday MultiFaith meditation group continues to meet weekly from 6:30-7:30PM via ZOOM. "Meditation is offering your genuine presence to yourself in every moment." ~ Thich Nhat Hanh

We invite you to join us every 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 other 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: 844 9427 4033, Password: 143811, Dial by your location: +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

For questions, please contact Karen Christie at [kbchristie@bex.net](mailto:kbchristie@bex.net).



## 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. Or join us in person Sundays at 11:00 am for in person service!

## COFFEE HOUR

Join us for coffee hour Sundays in person. Coffee will be served to you due to Covid restrictions.

## 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.

## OFFICE HOURS

Our in-person church office hours are: Mondays 10:30-2:30, Wednesdays 10:30-2:30, or please reach us by phone or email. Phone: 419-381-6999, Office email: [office@uutoledo.org](mailto:office@uutoledo.org), Bookkeeper email: [bookkeeper@uutoledo.org](mailto:bookkeeper@uutoledo.org), Minister email: [minister@uutoledo.org](mailto:minister@uutoledo.org).

## AWARENESS OF SPECIAL NEEDS

The Awareness of Special Needs Support group is back! If you are living with a chronic condition or are a caregiver, please join us on the 4th Saturday of each month. Join us for cookies and beverages as we talk about how we are doing. We meet at Joanne Hartough's home from 1:30 to 3:00pm. Please email [joannehartough@gmail.com](mailto:joannehartough@gmail.com) if you would like to come.

## CHURCH MEETINGS

Use of the grounds and our indoor rooms, including Fellowship Hall, by congregation members and other groups that use our building is acceptable as long as folks are aware that the bathroom should only be used one person at a time, and tables, chairs, and kitchen items used should be cleaned and sanitized. We do intend to try to keep doing services online even after we reopen fully, to maintain the option for people to stay apart but stay connected. Thank you for your patience as we continue to work through these issues. You may still reserve your ZOOM meeting if you prefer, by emailing our office at: [office@uutoledo.org](mailto:office@uutoledo.org). You'll receive an email with Zoom's login info, meeting ID, and passwords.

## BIPOC

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. Upcoming dates: December 13. Contact Sana Saeed at [ssaeed@uua.org](mailto:ssaeed@uua.org) for connection information.

## THANK YOU KROGR SHOPPERS

Thank you to all who shopped at Kroger and made First Unitarian church your Community Rewards designee. Between the dates of 01-Aug-2021 to 31-Oct-2021, 48 households participated, and our church received \$157.14 total donations of free money for the church. Have you signed your Kroger card up yet? Please do so at [kroger.com](http://kroger.com). Look for the community rewards section. Questions? Email the church office at: [office@uutoledo.org](mailto:office@uutoledo.org).

## POINSETTIAS

Thank you to all who purchased Christmas Poinsettia from our fundraiser and for all who donated them to our church altar. The altar flowers will be taken to an area nursing home after Christmas Eve service.



Teresa Acocks in memory of Greta Ullman and Lynn Lyle  
Eugene and Patty Naujock in memory of their parents and siblings  
Karen Porter in memory of Harry and Gertrude Loving  
Sue Smith in memory of Gary Frost and Tony Smith



*Have a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!*