



SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR APRIL 2022



Sunday, April 3

Our Spiritual Connection to Food

Patty Sheehan

We'll explore the power of food choices based on our spiritual values to heal ourselves and Earth. And I'll tell you about a few environmentally conscious food pioneers, including some Rust Belt chefs, who prove we can eat humanely sourced, mainly plant-based diets without giving up the tastes and textures we love.

Sunday, April 10

Singing Our Principle

Mickey Emch

This service will be our first "sing-a-long" since 2020. We encourage everyone to raise your voices.

Sunday, April 17

The Problem of Easter

Rev. Phil Park-Thomas

Taking it seriously without taking it literally — reflections of a holiday heretic

Regardless of personal beliefs, it is hard to ignore that Easter infuses the culture around us. Second only to Christmas, it is a holiday steeped in Christian stories and symbols that is difficult to totally ignore. Is there a creative and meaningful approach to Easter without submitting to the literal story of an empty tomb or doctrines about a crucified god-man called Jesus?

Sunday, April 24

Religion and Humor

Joe Moran

Joe will explore the role of humor in five of the world's great religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism without neglecting Unitarian Universalism. Along the way he will tell a few religious jokes.



Reverend Tim Barger

I'm on medical leave, but I'm writing a column this week just to say how glad I am that we have a new Director of Lifelong Learning, Gini Gottman. The standard procedure for our introducing new staff members has been to send a letter from both of us to the congregation. Because of the timing of my stem cell transplant, we weren't able to do that. So let me just let all of you know how excited I am for Gini to be joining our Toledo Unitarians staff (and she's a church member, too). When I checked her references, one colleague told me he'd hire her in a nanosecond. Another was hoping to get her more involved in church leadership. Gini will definitely be involved in leadership as our Director of Lifelong Learning—and I expect she'll be here very much longer than a nanosecond of our church life. Gini and the RE Council are making plans for her to kind of "ease in" to the work, as there's so much extra to do taking this on during this pandemic. Look for announcements about kids' RE classes and perhaps some parties, and soon Gini will often be giving the story time during Sunday services. If you have kids in RE and haven't yet heard from Gini, you might email her at dll@uutoledo.org, introduce yourself and your kids (if you're a church family) or yourself (if you're a teacher), and consider how you might help to get our RE back in operation. As for me, I'm doing well in Cleveland recovering from my transplant and will be in communication again when the time is closer to my return to Toledo. Best to you and yours, Rev. Tim



Sandra Kosek-Sills, Board President

One item of business for the upcoming Annual Meeting will be whether we want to decrease the size of the board. At nine people, with four officers, that is a lot compared to our total congregation numbers of around 110-120. Of those numbers, we have about 40 people who are very active in congregational life. After much discussion over the past year or so, we will suggest going to a seven member board, at about five percent of our total membership. We think that it would be better to free people up to continue to fill roles other than the board. Please think about what area of your personal ministry you would like to further develop – I am sure we could find a role that would be a good fit. I am excited to see the rebirth of our RE program. There may be some new opportunities there. We continue to have visitors in person each week, and the kitchen crew could also use some helping hands. I have seen a lot of participation in the Spiritual Adventures. It's great to see people coming together to learn and share. If you have interests, please let me, Rev. Tim, or any committee chair know you would like to help out. In fellowship, Sandra



Mickey Emch, Director of Music

The position for music director at First Unitarian Church of Toledo is posted! Many thanks to the folks serving on the search committee. If you're interested in making a recommendation, reach out to me or to Phil Zepp for more information. It is also worth mentioning that as our Covid policies shift to reflect the lower case numbers, you are encouraged to begin singing along in service as you are comfortable. For some, staying distant and masked will be more comfortable for singing. I look forward to our All Music service this month, during which the congregation will be invited to raise their voices in community song. In fellowship, Mickey



Gini Gottman, Director of Lifelong Learning

Hello All! I've been a UU for 17 years and I've spent 12 of those years devoted to Religious Education. I've participated in science experiments and Christmas pageants, I've painted, read stories, swept and mopped, held hands and wiped tears. I'm a lawyer by trade but religious education has my heart. I am overwhelmingly humbled and grateful to have the opportunity to be your Director of Lifelong Learning. Looking forward to our Easter party on April 17th. In fellowship, Gini

UU FILM CLUB

Good news! The UU Film Club will be in-person in April. We will meet on Saturday, April 16 at the home of Judy & Dave Murray. We will be sharing a late lunch (pizza) and viewing the 2016 film Hunt for the Wilderpeople. This comedic film chronicles the life of defiant city kid Ricky, raised on hip-hop and foster care, who gets a fresh start in the New Zealand countryside. He quickly finds himself at home with his new foster family: the loving Aunt Bella, the cantankerous Uncle Hec, and dog Tupac. When a tragedy strikes that threatens to ship Ricky to another home, both he and Hec go on the run in the bush. As a national manhunt ensues, the newly branded outlaws must face their options. Email Dave and Judy at bookie@bex.net with questions or to RSVP.

SATURDAY KNITTING

Knit Wits will be joining Fiberwork Orphans from noon until 4:30 on the first Saturday of the month in Fellowship Hall. Come knit and craft with us. Please wear a mask, and bring your own drinks and lunch. We will not be using the kitchen. Any questions, please contact Carla LoganMercer or Carrie Baum.

ZOOM

The church has a Zoom account for your use. Please feel free to schedule if you want to have a small group meeting, whether it's your committee, chalice circle, or just a group of church friends. Send an email to the church office to schedule a Zoom meeting. (carols@uutoledo.org)

BUDGET

The board is beginning the budgeting process with a pledge number of \$193,000. Thanks to the folks who have committed to our congregation and provided us with an ability to plan for the coming year. Look for budget specific meetings to occur the week before the Annual Meeting, probably that Wed. evening and Sat. morning. More info will be forthcoming.

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.

CHILDREN'S RE YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

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

PLEASE SIGN IN ON SUNDAYS

While we're having in-person services, we ask everyone present in the building to please sign in every Sunday on the sheet in the lobby. Just in case there's a need to notify people about a possible Covid-19 exposure, we can supply that list to the health department. We also ask on that sheet whether you've been vaccinated—to help with our own statistics and decision making. Thanks for taking the extra steps needed for us to be cautious and safer. Masks are not required, but you may wish to still wear one.

STYROFOAM

If you have Styrofoam you've been saving, bring it to the church. Contact Karen Porter to make arrangements to put it in the garage. (kjport@sbcglobal.net) or if you want to take it directly to Ann Arbor, the web site is: www.recycleannarbor.org for more information.

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.

LFH BLANKET-MAKING

Our blanket-making group in support of Leading Families Home is meeting the 4th Wednesday of each month at 10:30 am - 1:00 pm. We usually go out to lunch afterwards. No special skills are needed and if you have sharp scissors, please bring them. We made six blankets at our last meeting which LFH greatly appreciated. Join us for creative fun and fellowship. Contact Mary Souther at mbsouther@bex.net if you have questions.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

To donate online search for "2022 UUSC guest at your table." Select <https://www.uusc.org>. Select the "donate" box and complete as instructed. Your donation can be one time only or recurring. To donate by mail use the membership envelope included in the Stories of Hope pamphlet. Make check to UUSC with "guest" or "GAYT" on the memo line. Mail to: UUSC, PO box 808, Newark, NJ 07101-0808. Any questions or difficulties contact Carrie Baum, home phone 419-537-9325.



2022 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 April Fool's Day	2 12:00 pm Knit Wits & Fiberwork Orphans
3 9:45 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube AND IN-PERSON service in Sanctuary 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom	4	5 12:00 pm AA Group Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	6	7	8	8
10 9:45 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube AND IN-PERSON service in Sanctuary 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	11	12 12:00 pm AA Group Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	13	14 7:00 pm Board meeting	15 Good Friday	16 Passover
17 Easter 9:45 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am DLL Easter Party 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube AND IN-PERSON service in Sanctuary 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom	18 9:30 am Breakfast Bunch, Reynolds Rd. Cafe	19 12:00 pm AA Group Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22 Earth Day	23 1:30 pm Awareness of Special Needs
24 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	25	26 12:00 pm AA Group Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	27 LFH Blanket Making	28	29 Arbor Day	30

MEDITATION

In April the Sunday evening meditation group will meet on April 10 and 24 from 5:30PM to 7:00PM on ZOOM. 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=MUKyUj9CQzT3AwWjZCSTUwZHY1QT09>

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.



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!

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: Tuesdays 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, Bookkeeper email: bookkeeper@uutoledo.org, Minister email: 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 if you would like to come.

DLL EASTER PARTY

Please join us on Easter, April 17, at 11:00 a.m. for a cookie party followed by an Easter egg hunt! Adults are welcome to stay for the party or attend the service in the sanctuary. A good time will be had by all. For more information, contact Gini Gottman at dll@uutoledo.org.

YOUR INPUT WANTED

Your Chance to Provide Input to the UUA Committee Charged with Suggesting Revisions to our Principles

There's a lot going on with proposed changes to our Unitarian Principles these days. In a recent service, Rev. Joan VanBecelaere told us all about the proposed 8th Principle. In addition there is the the Article II Study Commission. In case you're wondering what Article II is, Article II is the part of our UUA Bylaws where our Principles, Sources, and Purposes are housed. So the Article II Study Commission is charged with reviewing our Principles, Sources, and Purposes and suggesting changes in them to keep up with the times. In fact, our UUA Bylaws mandate that the Principles, Purposes, and Sources be reviewed at least every fifteen years. The last revision was in 1987, when the 7th Principle was added. Since then, many changes to the Principles have been suggested, but none have been implemented. Our Toledo congregation can take pride in the fact that a recent change in the wording of our Six Sources was initiated by Rev. Jami Yandle, who was ordained here. Our UUA Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at a regular General Assembly. The Article II Commission's deadline to propose the changes to the UUA Board of Trustees in January next year, so that the proposals may be considered by the UUA Board, and then be placed on the 2023 General Assembly Business Agenda for a first vote. You have a chance to provide input to the process. There is a survey open to all at the UUA website. To get more information about the Study Commission, to find links to learning resources, and/or to participate in the survey, visit this link: <https://tinyurl.com/Article2UUA> or go to UUA.org and search for Article II. Note: This survey will remain open until April 30, 2022.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TEALL is offering two scholarships to attend the UUA General Assembly in-person June 22-26, 2022. Each of the scholarships will be available to First Unitarian of Toledo Church members in good standing. The scholarships will include up to \$500 for the flight, up to \$500 for housing and full registration fees. The applicant needs to submit in a paragraph or two what they hope to experience from attending the GA and if they have any thoughts about how this might apply to First Unitarian Church. Please send this information (or any questions) to: jarvisgamble@gmail.com by noon Friday, April 22, 2022.

SPRING TEA

TICKETS NOW ON SALE for Spring Tea! Saturday May 7 at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. Come out and welcome Spring at a Victorian inspired English style High Tea. Dust off that fancy dress, grab that pretty purse, and don your big flowered hat to enjoy the flavors of Spring in three courses. Start the afternoon of fun and fellowship with freshly baked petit scones served with your choice of whipped butter or French clotted cream and the first of many cups of handpicked loose leaf tea expertly brewed in real china tea pots. Excite your palate with an array of delicate tea sandwiches featuring the classic cucumber sandwich and other savory delectables. And don't forget that the reason we eat, is to get to dessert. The best is always saved for last as you dine on a trio of delectable lemon tarts, mini eclairs, French macarons, and pink champagne cake bites. We will be featuring specially chosen quality loose leaf teas to complement each course. This is an event you don't want to miss. What a wonderful way to welcome spring and partake in fellowship and fun. Children of appropriate age welcome. We will have lemonade for the children. The same menu is served to each guest. Meatless options will be available, but the menu includes dairy, sugar, and bread. Herbal tea options will be available. Tickets are \$25 per person. See Judy Murray or Sandra Kosek-Sills to purchase tickets. Hope to see you there!