



SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR FEBRUARY 2022



Sunday, February 6

Before the Love Story

Melissa Jeter

Before the Love Story is about what needs to be done ante-Beloved Community. Student Minister Melissa Jeter offers that the relationship you practice with yourself informs the quality of relationships with people in community. Moreover, how you have been loved informs how you love yourself and in turn people in our world. The Love Story we want to tell requires intentional spiritual practices and a widely drawn circle. It is work where every voice is sacred because all are deeply connected.

Sunday, February 13

A Darwinian Valentine

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

The day before Sunday is Darwin Day, the birthday of Charles Darwin. The day after is Valentine's Day. Let's combine them into a Darwinian valentine.

Sunday, February 20

Presidential Social Justice (Social Justice service)

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

For our annual Social Justice Sunday, as this year we're observing it on Presidents Day weekend, we'll look at some social justice efforts—or ignorance—of selected United States presidents.

Sunday, February 27

Jesus to Messiah

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

Continuing the occasional sermon series on Jesus as viewed through a humanist lens, Rev. Tim will consider biblical text that positions Jesus as the Messiah.



Reverend Tim Barger

I have had Covid-19. From my reading about it in newspapers and on health department web pages, I am past the stage of being infectious to others and can be in public, masked. In a week or so, I should take a rapid-response test and have a negative result, indicating I no longer have Covid-19—but that has to be a rapid-response antigen test, I read, because the greater sensitivity of a PCR test (polymerase chain reaction) that takes a couple days to get results would mean I would still test positive. And, you might know, I've had three full doses of the Moderna vaccine. It didn't prevent me from contrastive Covid-19, but I think the vaccination is why I suffered no more ill effects than a bad cold and I didn't require hospitalization or risk death. Jewel and I avoided getting Covid until the peak of omicron, and we're not certain how it came to us. But we're better. I appreciate your concern, your offers of help, and your putting up with changes to the Sunday plans so I could still present a service with Mickey, led from our homes so I wouldn't put anyone at risk of catching Covid from me. I'll continue to keep my distance, and I won't be working regularly in the church office until I have a negative test. Please know that this is for the common good, and if you need my pastoral care or want advice or even general conversation, we can be in communication without being in close contact. Take care and be well. Rev. Tim



Sandra Kosek-Sills, Board President

I am pleased to report that the first half of the year finances have the church budget well into the black ink. On the positive side, we are about where we should be for pledge revenue. The operating reserve and restricted funds are doing very well. On the expense side, we had a need to catch up with some significant deferred maintenance in the form of tree trimming and brush removal. However, we have not yet filled the accompanist position since there remains uncertainty about when choir will resume. I also see that the electric bill remains below projected. This may be due to our not being in person, or could be better than expected performance by the solar panels. In either case, for now we are in good shape with the budget. You should be seeing your end of year statements in the mail in the next few weeks. I am very grateful for the support that the church receives from the congregation, both current and past members and friends. We would always be able to find ways to use additional funds to further our various ministries, but we are holding steady with the resources we have. In fellowship, Sandra



Mickey Emch, Director of Music

Happy Valentines from the music ministry! The Omicron surge unfortunately kept us apart for the month of January, but I am incredibly grateful to our community for the wisdom to prioritize safety and the faith that we will be together soon. Our handbells and community sings will begin as soon as possible - Please keep your eye on the FYI and listen for announcements as we navigate a safe return to music making. In fellowship, Mickey



Melissa Jeter, Student Minister

Hello, everyone! I appreciate your support with attending seminary. A few folks have read at least a few paragraphs of a paper and your generous donations have allowed me to complete the required career/ personality assessment for the UUA. Last fall was challenging, but I managed the semester pretty well. I have earned 30.5 of 86 credit hours toward the Master of Divinity Degree. This Spring I will take 9 credit hours: Womanist Ethics; Homiletics; and UU History. I also have continued to be asked to speak to UU congregations throughout the Central East Region. I have attended a few meetings for Ministerial Formation and UU professional colleagues. Spring semester starts February 1st. Tuesdays will be my class days and they will take place online. At this time the Methodist Theological School of Ohio will be online only for the first two weeks, given the recent surge with COVID-19. Once again, I am grateful for your support. Peace and Blessings to you. Melissa

UU FILM CLUB

Do you like films? Join us via Zoom on February 19th at 2:00 pm to discuss the 2016 film *Manchester by the Sea*. Starring Casey Affleck and Michelle Williams, this film is a deep exploration of regret, grief, and atonement. Please watch the film prior to the discussion. It's available for streaming on Amazon Prime and on DVD at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library.

COFFEE HOUR

We have temporarily discontinued coffee hour for everyone's safety. Please remember to wear your mask at all times while in our church 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.

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 Arun Nadarajah (nadarajah@utoledo.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/Winter 2022. 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

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.

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@utoledo.org)

PLEASE LET US KNOW

Please let Reverend Tim or the church office (office@utoledo.org) know, if you are willing to share the information, after you have received your second or third dose of the Covid vaccine. We would like to keep track so we know when we can all safely attend service in person and stay together with our church family. Thank you

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.

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 during the pandemic.



2022 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5
6 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	7	8 12:00 pm AA Group Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	9	10 7:00 pm Board meeting	11	12
13 Superbowl Sunday 10:00 am Spiritual Adventures Zoom 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube AND IN-PERSON service in Sanctuary 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	14 Valentine's Day 	15 12:00 pm AA Group Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	16	17	18	19
20 Newsletter Deadline 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	21 President's Day 9:30 am Breakfast Bunch, Reynolds Rd. Cafe	22 12:00 pm AA Group Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	23	24	25	26 1:30 pm Awareness of Special Needs
27 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	28	March 1 12:00 pm AA Group Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation - Zoom	2	3	4	5

MEDITATION

In January the Sunday evening meditation group will meet on Feb. 13 and Feb. 27 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=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.



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: 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, 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.

HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING

In December, as in years past, our church family came together to generously provide Holiday 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 three 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 \$1125 worth of gift cards for 3 families, a total of 6 adults and 9 children. You generously gave more than was needed for the minimum suggested amount for the families, so we were able to make the holidays extra special with \$850 worth of gift cards for many of the older individuals that Sylvania Family Services helps. 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 behind the scenes. Luanne Billstein and Chris Stockwell

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

As in the past, when Toledo Public Schools close for snow, ice, or freezing temperatures, the church building and office will be closed.

Official Snow Cancellation Policy

1. Weekdays:

Our church will be closed for the entire weekday and evening whenever Toledo Public Schools are closed or a Level 2 Snow Emergency is declared by the Lucas County Sheriff.

2. Weekends:

Our church will be closed for the entire Saturday or Sunday, (day and evening) whenever determined by the Minister or President of the Board, or a Level 2 Snow Emergency is declared by the Lucas County Sheriff.

3. Emergency Communication:

Church members will be notified by email via the UU-FYI electronic bulletin and Facebook. All four local TV stations, (WTOL, WNWO, WTVG, FOX), The Blade, and other local news providers will be notified of our cancellation status. Those stations offer on-air and online cancellation status reports.

As always, the best way to reach the church is by emailing the office at office@uutoledo.org.

HELP WANTED

Could you spare an hour a Sunday or two every month or so? Do you enjoy our services and would like to be more involved in your church? Would you like a deeper connection to your Sunday church service? We are in need of additional Worship Service Associates to help during service. You will be assisting our Minister and Worship Director giving welcome, readings, and other ways of adding a voice to the services, while our Technical Crew films the service. Please call the church office or email Rev. Tim for more information. Training will be provided.

LEARN FROM AN EXPERT

Thanks to Walter McGhee, our church now has a fully equipped tech booth which allows us give a professional look to our live streams of services. It's very interesting to see how it all works, and we need more volunteers to learn the ins and outs. Walter is a good and patient teacher. If you're interested, contact Tom Sheehan, tom43623@gmail.com.