



# SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES FOR AUGUST 2022



## Sunday, August 7

### Prophetic Peoples' Words and Deeds

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

This summer we're looking at the roots holding us close and the wings setting us free (to paraphrase the Unitarian Universalist hymn "Spirit of Life"). We're devoting one Sunday service to each of the seven UU principles plus a Sunday for the proposed eighth principle, and services for all six sources of our living tradition. August 7 is the second source: words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love.

## Sunday, August 14

### Wisdom from World Religions

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

This summer we're looking at the roots holding us close and the wings setting us free (to paraphrase the Unitarian Universalist hymn "Spirit of Life"). We're devoting one Sunday service to each of the seven UU principles plus a Sunday for the proposed eighth principle, and services for all six sources of our living tradition. August 14 is the third source: wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.

## Sunday, August 21

### Judaism and Christianity Teach Us

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

This summer we're looking at the roots holding us close and the wings setting us free (to paraphrase the Unitarian Universalist hymn "Spirit of Life"). We're devoting one Sunday service to each of the seven UU principles plus a Sunday for the proposed eighth principle, and services for all six sources of our living tradition. August 21 is the fourth source: Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.

## Sunday, August 28

### We Learn from Humanism

Rev. Dr. TK Barger

This summer we're looking at the roots holding us close and the wings setting us free (to paraphrase the Unitarian Universalist hymn "Spirit of Life"). We're devoting one Sunday service to each of the seven UU principles plus a Sunday for the proposed eighth principle, and services for all six sources of our living tradition. August 28 is the fifth source: humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.



## Reverend Tim Barger

Did you know that, officially, I'm a member of every committee in the church? That's true—and it's not the reason why I've been campaigning to have fewer "committees" and call them groups, teams, and other terms instead; regardless of the name, I'll still be a member of those. As senior minister, an "ex officio" (from the office) duty is to be on all committees as a nonvoting member. I don't attend every meeting of every committee, but feel free to invite me to a meeting if you'd like my input and advice. Refreshments might be an enticement... I want to change the name from "committee" to another term, unless the bylaws demand it be a committee, because, to many, that word implies drudge work. We want good activity, with honest effort rather than obligation, from people working together as teams, groups, crews, clubs, ministries, circles, and so on. And gavels are optional. Also, for all the groups that do the work of our congregation, I've been slowly working on what might be called a realignment. There are more than 65 gatherings of people, by my count, that have been listed in church reports, Facebook posts, and announcements—many of which are now inactive but still listed, others that have been idle since the pandemic came, and a small number that are involved and still meeting. A few new groups have started, too, such as the Film Club. When we revised the church bylaws a few years ago, five categories of involvement were designated as "area councils" to "perform actions necessary for the normal functioning and operation of the organization." Those councils are finance, spiritual education, worship, church community, and wider world. The board has the discretion to form and dissolve these councils, and it hasn't chosen to implement that structure yet. My work in finding and categorizing as many committees as I can (which is how found that number of 65-plus) will help us to consider whether to have a better chain of knowledge and operation by implementing area councils. More to the point, rather than for structure and illustrating flow charts, I'm hoping to discover and suggest better efficiency in the involvement of lay members, staff, and clergy so that we're not, in effect, doing more than we need or duplicating efforts to make the Toledo Unitarians a thriving congregation. We have become a smaller congregation and we must think about what we can manage well—more on that next month. Part of that is not to overdo our volunteer involvement to the point that everyone is burned out. Let's keep the chalice light shining while we keep our solar-powered lights on. If you have suggestions or want to join me in this "committee" work, let me know. Respectfully submitted to this "committee of the whole," ~Rev. Tim



## Sandra Kosek-Sills, Board President

I am thinking a lot about transitions and changes this month. My kid is in driver training, and we will be starting to do our college visits. School starts back up again later this month; it's hard to believe I have a HS junior already! Toledo Unitarians has some transitions too. We are still working on recruiting and hiring a new music director; we plan to kick this into higher gear in hopes of having someone by September. We are also searching for a new bookkeeper in the hopes that a new hire can learn from our current staff member. As I write this, the new board is coming together for our first meeting. Our transition to the fall "church season" is right around the corner. In the mean time, please enjoy the last part of the summer. See you in church! In Fellowship, Sandra



## Gini Gottman, Director of Lifelong Learning

This summer, our kids' program has been growing beautifully! It's not always easy to pry a little one out of bed during the summer, so I am glad and grateful for every child I see on Sundays. Our kids continue to grow friendships with each other, so let's please keep it up! We, the liberal religious, need each other as much as people in history have ever needed each other, and it's invaluable for our children to see and know each other, and know that they have a place – besides home – where they are welcomed, needed and loved. Thank you for sharing your beloved little ones with our community. In fellowship, Gini

## FROM REVEREND TIM BARGER

We occasionally have strangers in need come into our church. They might ask for money or share their hard-luck stories. They hope that compassionate people might give them money. That happened again, recently, on a Sunday at First Unitarian. A couple came during the service and stayed in the lobby until the service was concluded. Two church members were sitting at the welcome table, and I assume they invited the couple to wait until I was available. When I left the sanctuary during the postlude, I saw a woman and her husband, he in a wheelchair. After most of the congregation had gone to Fellowship Hall, they asked if I was the pastor and to take a minute of my time. We talked briefly, and I heard their story of not having eaten for three days; sleeping outside and affected by rain because, where they had been staying, the person collecting their money turned out not to be the landlord but was stealing from them; and their distrust of organizations helping those without places to live because the husband had been attacked once at a mission. It was obvious they wanted me to give them some money. First Unitarian doesn't have a petty cash resource for instances such as this. Currently, we don't have any Kroger gift cards to offer as help. The Minister's Discretionary Fund has been used more recently to pay utility bills and give assistance in amounts larger than what a person asking for gas money or a meal might expect. And, unfortunately because it's in our own circle, members of our congregation have recently received help from the Minister's Discretionary Fund; we like, I think, to have the attitude that it's only there for others even though we really do have that need ourselves. I told the couple that I would see what I could do, and I invited them to attend coffee hour. Then I asked a church volunteer if I could replace cash from the offering later with an amount from the Minister's Discretionary Fund, but there wasn't much in the collection basket; this volunteer offered some cash from their wallet instead. I found the couple and said that was all we could give. They said they were talking to others during coffee hour; I asked them not to ask for money, and my understanding is that they didn't, directly; instead, by sharing their story, they were hoping for compassionate giving. A few people did offer cash, I'm told. Later, I was asked if this couple was "real," if their story was true. I don't know. I might have seen them begging at street corners before. I wonder why, on that Sunday, they chose our congregation when there is another church next door and, not too far away, a branch of a megachurch—all holding Sunday services. In a recent sermon on justice, equity, and compassion in human relations—the second Unitarian Universalist principle—I quoted from the Charter of Compassion: "Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the center of our world and put another there, and to honor the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect." In that sermon, I asked if that "everybody, without exception," includes "a person holding a 'please give' sign at a street corner—even if you won't give and you might not comprehend why they beg." The Toledo Unitarians practice has been compassionately to suggest that people asking for assistance call 211; the asker's response often is of a catch-22, that 211 tells them to contact places of worship. We all have a long way to go in helping people in need. We could buy a new supply of Kroger cards, using the Minister's Discretionary Fund. I don't know how much help that would actually be to a person. Consider that our building is closed most of the time so we're not much of a "help the visitor" location. This is an ever-existing challenge, what to do about people who think that because we're a church, we're a place for direct help—and too often, those asking include their explanation of why they're not instead approaching agencies—government or religious—that have their mission as helping. When I was growing up, my mother told me that if ever there was a time I was in real need, I should go to a church and ask for help. Religious institutions are traditionally places that give social support. And on weekends, many other nonprofit resources, and government offices, are closed. But timing can be questionable. Our hospitality tells us to invite the stranger in, offer them refreshment, let them leave better than they entered. On Sunday, some people gave this couple money. The couple was seen later having a restaurant meal, so there was direct assistance. But the direct giving doesn't change their condition more than momentarily. Call me overly skeptical, but I have the impression that this couple has chosen to live this way at this time. Sharing a story of hard luck with people for whom compassion comes naturally does mean that a person can get enough money to make it through the next few days. This is something they know how to do. I hope this couple will look for other means to be able to live comfortably, but I have the feeling they're not yet ready to make that change. I have listened to people's stories, made suggestions about where they might find assistance, and I have said no to their requests. I have also had suggestions, and even my offer of a small amount of cash, turned down, the asker looking disappointed about the few bills in my hand. That same Sunday in Brooklyn, New York, armed robbers took more than a million dollars' worth of jewelry from a minister and the minister's wife—during the service. (I rarely wear even my \$10 fake Rolex, so I wouldn't be in that position, but we always have to be aware that congregations are targets of people who take.) We also have to be aware that crime is a possibility—askers can also be robbers if the opportunity is there and they see that as a way to gain. So, when people do come to us asking for help, please, alert a person serving as church security. Let the minister, and others in positions of responsibility who are there, such as the president or a commissioned lay minister, know that people are there to ask for help. And, though we need to be on our guard, please don't offer money unless you really want to. Continue to offer hospitality at church and suggest other ways people can be helped like through 211, and let the minister give from whatever funds we might have available (and the minister might tell them we can't give at that time). You never know; a person in need might be attracted to the Unitarian Universalist message they hear and the compassion they experience and become a valued member of our congregation.

## 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](mailto:carriebaum@toast.net) for more information.

## BATTERY RECYCLING

We are collecting household batteries for recycling, on the table by the kitchen door. Please place them in a ziplock bag. Mary Souther regularly takes our collected batteries to the Bedford Township Hall for recycling. Many thanks to Mary for providing this helpful service.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY


The Safety and Security Committee is seeking volunteers on Sundays to be available to open the church at 9:30 a.m. and close it at 1 p.m., and to provide a comforting presence in the hallway and parking lot during services. We are hoping for enough volunteers so that this will be an every-other-month service opportunity. Training will be provided. For questions or to volunteer contact Dave Murray at [davidmurray1954@gmail.com](mailto:davidmurray1954@gmail.com) or call 419-460-8972.

## 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.



# 2022 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 12:00 pm AA Group Meeting 6:30pm Meditation Zoom 7:00 pm Weavers Guild	3	4	5	6 10:00 am AA Slice of Serenity 12:00 pm Knit Wits & Fiberwork Orphans
7 9:45 am Spiritual Adventures 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube AND IN-PERSON service in Sanctuary 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour 8:00 pm Live & Let Live LGBT AA	8	9 12:00 pm AA Group Meeting 6:30pm Meditation Zoom	10	11	12	13 10:00 am AA Slice of Serenity
14 9:45 am Spiritual Adventures 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube AND IN-PERSON service in Sanctuary 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom 8:00 pm Live & Let Live LGBT AA	15 9:30 am Breakfast Bunch, Reynolds Rd. Caf�e 6:00 pm Together Women Rise Meeting	16 12:00 pm AA Group Meeting 6:30pm Meditation Zoom	17	18 7:00 pm Board meeting	19	20 10:00 am AA Slice of Serenity 12:00 pm Pride Parade 1:00 pm UU Film Club <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
21 19:45 am Spiritual Adventures 1:00 am Worship Service YouTube AND IN-PERSON service in Sanctuary 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 8:00 pm Live & Let Live LGBT AA	22	23 12:00 pm AA Group Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation Zoom	24	25	26	27 10:00 am AA Slice of Serenity 1:30 pm Awareness of Special Needs
28 9:45 am Spiritual Adventures 11:00 am Worship Service YouTube AND IN-PERSON service in Sanctuary 12:00 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour - Zoom 5:30 pm Meditation - Zoom (July 24th) 8:00 pm Live & Let Live LGBT AA	29	30 12:00 pm AA Group Meeting 6:30 pm Meditation Zoom	21 10:30 am LFH Blanket Making	1 September	2	3 10:00 am AA Slice of Serenity 12:00 pm Knit Wits & Fiberwork Orphans

## MEDITATION

The Sunday evening meditation group will meet on August 14 and August 28 from 5:30PM to 7:00PM on ZOOM. The Tuesday MultiFaith meditation group continues to meet weekly from 6:30-7:30PM in person and on ZOOM. Masks are encouraged for those attending in-person.

**"We need to live every breath deeply, so that we have peace, joy and freedom as we breathe." ~ 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=WmlrMGZiN1c5VnlOaWFvc2RFUGc2Zz09>

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).**



## UU FILM CLUB

Are you a film buff? Join us the third Saturday of the month for the UU Film Club. We meet at a local theater to view a current film and then have lunch/dinner at a restaurant to discuss it. Contact Judy or Dave Murray at [bookie@bex.net](mailto:bookie@bex.net) for details.

## AWARENESS OF SPECIAL NEEDS

Awareness of Special Needs Support Group: If you are living with a chronic condition, are a caregiver, or just need to talk, please join us on the 4th Saturday of the month. We gather around the table with cookies and beverages and share with each other how we are doing. We meet at Joanne Hartough's home from 1:30 to 3:00pm. Our next meeting will be on July 23rd, 2022. If you would like to come, please send an email to [joannehartough@gmail.com](mailto:joannehartough@gmail.com).

## 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](mailto:office@uutoledo.org), Bookkeeper email: [bookkeeper@uutoledo.org](mailto:bookkeeper@uutoledo.org), Minister email: [minister@uutoledo.org](mailto:minister@uutoledo.org).

## 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.

## 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](mailto:DLL@uutoledo.org)) Arun Nadarajah ([nadarajah@utoledo.edu](mailto:nadarajah@utoledo.edu)) or Michael Davison ([davisonma@gmail.com](mailto:davisonma@gmail.com)) to volunteer for Children's RE.

## 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](mailto:mbsouther@bex.net) if you have questions.

## TOLEDO PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars now! The Toledo Pride festival is scheduled for Saturday, August 20 at noon. We hope to march with the Maumee Valley UU Congregation again this year and will invite friends from the Lyons and Oberlin congregations. We need marchers! This is an especially good chance for our kids to get together and celebrate our diverse, beloved community. This year, we will set up a booth and hand out information about our church. This is a great opportunity to show support for our LGBTQ+ friends and family. It is also an important way to support our church mission by increasing awareness of our congregation among people who already share our principles but may not know it yet! If you are interested in helping out or learning more, please e-mail Gini Gottman ([dll@uutoledo.org](mailto:dll@uutoledo.org)) or David Strickler ([david.pickstrum@gmail.com](mailto:david.pickstrum@gmail.com)).

## 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.

## ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE - AKA HOARDER DOWNSIZING SALE!

Save the date—mark your calendars now. Our annual rummage sale will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2022 from 9a-2p. Ready to declutter? We are seeking donated items for this sale. More info on this later. We also need many volunteers for jobs big and small—whatever time you can give us is awesome! We will be holding several planning meetings before our main event. The first brief planning meeting will be this Sunday, July 24th after services. If you can't attend this meeting, no problem—we are just getting started so there is room for everyone!! If you are interested in learning more, come to our meeting Sunday or contact Sue Childers at [readcrafts@yahoo.com](mailto:readcrafts@yahoo.com).