



**TOLEDO  
UNITARIANS**

**First Unitarian Church of Toledo**  
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**UU-FYI - OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER  
FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025**

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**9:45 AM -SPIRITUAL FORUM**

Join us for Spiritual Forum on August 3, when David Strickler will continue our series of ukulele lessons! Come prepared to watch, learn and perhaps play along. Our ukulele orchestra is taking shape.

**11:00 AM - SERVICE**



**War: What is it Good For: A Vietnam Retrospective.**  
Joe Moran

Joe will speak to us about his role as an army medic in the Vietnam War, as well as about war in general: its causes, consequences, and our responsibilities in preventing war.

**KIDS' ACTIVITIES** This coming Sunday, the kids will get a chance to talk about themselves! We will prompt them with questions about themselves and allow them to discuss the things they have in common and the differences among them. If time permits, we will also head outside to play! Hope to see you there.

### THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Friday, August 1 - 2:00 PM - First UU Book Club\*

Saturday, August 2 - 11:30 AM - Knit Wits & Fiber Orphans\*

Sunday, August 3:

- 9:30 AM - Choir Practice
- 9:45 AM - Spiritual Forum
- 11:00 AM - Service In Person + on our YouTube Channel
- 12:00 PM - Coffee and Conversation

Tuesday, August 5 - 11:00 AM - Sunday Service Committee - ZOOM\*

Tuesday, August 5 - 6:30 PM - Meditation group via ZOOM\*

### UPCOMING EVENTS (see articles below for more info)

August 9th at 11 am - Social Action Saturday

August 3, 24, & 31 - Last 3 ukulele lessons!

Friday & Saturday, September 5 & 6 - Church Rummage Sale

\*see articles below or [the Groups and Monthly Meeting document](#) for more details

## LEADERSHIP AND STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee with the approval of the Board of Trustees has created a major gift incentive program for naming a room within the church. The Policy, approved on May 26, 2025, is [attached here](#).

As always, all donations, large or small, of money, time and talent are greatly appreciated and very important to the ongoing daily and yearly sustainability of the church and our ability to meet our mission and vision, noted below. We honor and thank all who continue to support our church. Without each and every one of you we could not continue to thrive and grow.

*Our mission at First Unitarian Church of Toledo is:  
"Fostering spiritual growth and compassionate action,  
as we work toward realizing our vision of becoming  
a vibrant, inclusive spiritual community that achieves  
growth, visibility, and relevance."*

Equally important are major gifts which contribute to the church's ability to make major changes and improvements which are a necessary part of sustainability and growth. We received three major gift pledges during the Capital Campaign and will work with these donors regarding naming possibilities upon fulfillment of their pledge. We want to say thank you for their generosity in supporting our church. If any one is interested in making a major gift of \$30,000 and naming a room, please contact Capital Campaign Stewardship Co-Chairs Sandra Kosek-Sills or Marna Slawson.

## CARING AND SHARING



It's mid-summer already!! And the heat has been the story. Hope each of you has found ways to stay cool and are enjoying the leisure of summer. Take care and stay in touch. Thanks to all who are leading the services each Sunday with such interesting sermons and spiritual connections.

*“UUs care! Please continue to communicate your concerns or celebrations with any member of the Caring Circle: Carla Logan-Mercer, Karen Christie, Phil Zepp, Suzanne Hoffman, Joanne Hartough, Becky Hrabovsky, Karen Porter, Terry Acocks, Kathy Crowther, Marsha Gamble, Susan Smith (current chair @ [sfrostsmit7@gmail.com](mailto:sfrostsmit7@gmail.com)) and Rev. Tim Barger.*

*Please contact Joanne Hartough at [joannehartough@gmail.com](mailto:joannehartough@gmail.com) with any concerns or joys that you wish to share in this FYI column.*

## INVITATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Want to have some fun with music at church? Join the Spiritual Forum Sunday morning rehearsals of our new ukulele orchestra. David Strickler will teach the remaining lessons, helping us to learn chords and play songs. The orchestra will perform at Ingathering on September 7 (you don't have to be present at all lessons to perform at Ingathering). If you'd like to take part, please bring your own uke. They're relatively inexpensive—or, if you're really inspired, instead of a \$30 model you can get one costing thousands of dollars—and you might be able to check out a ukulele from the Way Library in Perrysburg. We'll have one or two spare ukes on hand for the Sunday 9:45 am rehearsals. The remaining ukulele lessons are July 13, then August 3, 24, and 31. Please come for a different kind of summer school!



This past Saturday we made 21 care packages! Thank you Ray Laura and Maxine Pruett for your assistance! Supplies are running low! Please donate personal care items in the size that would fit in pocket! Join us for this and other social action activities on August 9th at 11 am. See you there!



**The SECULAR HUMANISTS OF WESTERN LAKE ERIE will host**  
*The Last Class* Film

Join us for a Screening of *The Last Class* at Cinemark Franklin Park 16 and XD. *The Last Class* is a nuanced and deeply personal portrait of master educator Robert Reich teaching his final course and reflecting on a period of immense transformation, personally and globally. It is a love letter to education.

The former Secretary of Labor might be famous for his public service, best-selling books, and viral social media posts, but he always



considered teaching his true calling. Now, after over 40 years and an extraordinary 40,000 students, Reich is preparing for his last class. Over the course of the film, Reich confronts the impending finality, and his own aging, with increasing candor, introspection, and, ultimately, emotion. He displays a rawness of feeling he has never shared publicly before. Drawing on his lifetime in politics, he uses his class, "Wealth and Poverty," to offer us all a deeper look at why inequalities of income and wealth have widened significantly since the late 1970s, and why this poses dangerous risks to our society.

Humanists support education based on the truth, facts, and data. We also support social justice issues that Robert Reich talks about and we are also concerned about income inequalities. We need to sell at least 60 tickets by August 24, 2025 for this event to happen. Even if you can't attend, you can buy a ticket for someone who wants to attend but can't afford it. Feel free to share this event with your friends, family, and social circle. The film is open to all who buy a ticket. For tickets, visit our screening webpage <https://bit.ly/lastclass-toledo2025>



### Weekly and Monthly Meetings and Activities

[Click THIS DOCUMENT](#) for a fuller, printable description of the 2025 activities, location, meeting dates and contact person for each group:

Every Tuesday ....Sunday Service Committtee ZOOM call at 11:00 AM

Every Tuesday....Meditation @ 6:30 PM

Weekly AA meetings - see document link for times

1<sup>st</sup> Friday.....Book Club @ 2:00 PM

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday.....Knit Wits @ 11:30 AM

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday.....Social Action Saturday @ 11AM-1PM

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday.....Meditation @ 5:30 PM until December

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday.....Film Club @ 1:00 PM Not meeting in the Summer

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday .....Walking Group @ 1:00 PM

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.....Men's Group @ 5:30 PM

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday.....Together Women Rise @ 6:00 PM

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday .....LGBTQ Online Support Group @ 8:00 PM

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday.....Board of Trustees @ 7:00 PM

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday ...Blanket Making @ 10:30 AM

4<sup>th</sup> Saturday.....Social Action Saturday @ 11AM-1PM

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.....Meditation @ 5:30 PM

4<sup>th</sup> (or last) Sunday.... Potluck after Service

*Is your meeting not listed? Submit your meeting details at*

## GREEN SANCTUARY

### SHRUBS FOR POLLINATORS

So far this month, we have looked at flowers to attract pollinators. This week's column focuses on three flowering shrubs, good low-care plants for people who prefer to minimize time spent weeding: buttonbush, clethra, and dogwood.



Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) flowers in early summer, after the spring-flowering trees have ended their show. This native of Ohio's stream banks and wetlands hosts twenty-five species of butterflies and moths, including the gorgeous cecropia. It is a magnet for native bees as well as honeybees, hence its other common name of "honeyball." Its flowers look like something from a science fiction film. Buttonbush is not a plant for dry sites but other than that is easy-care. There is a gorgeous specimen in the rain garden in front of the Wildwood Preserve manor house. Clethra *alnifolia*, also known as sweet pepperbush or summersweet, is another plant for damp sites and offers the added benefits of growing well in shade and blooming during the heat of late July and August. Its sweet-scented bottlebrush flowers attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds, while small songbirds make use of the seedheads that appear in late fall. In my experience, it is not at all attractive to deer. Most of us are familiar with *Cornus florida*, the flowering dogwood that helps make Ohio such a beauty spot in the spring and fall, but our area also hosts five smaller dogwood species that grow in a variety of conditions. All of the dogwoods attract songbirds to their fall fruit, and their leaves feed more than a hundred species of caterpillars. If you decide to add a dogwood to your property, make sure it is a native species and not the Asian kousa dogwood: our local butterflies and moths cannot use it as food for their babies, and its fruit is too large for our songbirds' mouths. In its native range, it is a favorite snack for monkeys, but our area seems to have a shortage of those.

## NOTES AND NEWS

### OFFICE HOURS:

Office hours are normally Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:30-2:30 PM. Otherwise, please reach us by phone or email, which will be frequently checked. Thank you.

Phone: 419-381-6999

Office email: [office.manager@uutoledo.org](mailto:office.manager@uutoledo.org),

Bookkeeper email: [bookkeeper@uutoledo.org](mailto:bookkeeper@uutoledo.org),

Minister email: [minister@uutoledo.org](mailto:minister@uutoledo.org).

## ABOUT THE FYI

*Did you receive this FYI from a friend?  
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The weekly FYI is published on Thursdays. The Order of Service is sent on Saturdays.

To submit information for the next UU-FYI, fill out [THIS FORM](#)  
by [Wednesday at noon](#). Questions about the form or the FYI? Email [fyi@uutoledo.org](mailto:fyi@uutoledo.org).

**UU-FYI Volunteers:**

Tina Baker, Joanne Hartough, Susan Spiegel, Marna Slawson

**Clergy**

Rev. Dr. TK Barger, *Senior Minister*

David Strickler, *Commissioned Lay Minister*

Melissa Jeter, *Minister in Formation*

**Staff**

Gini Gottman, *Director of Lifelong Learning*

Jeffrey Maxie, *Music Director & Office Administrator*

Lou Ann Flick, *Bookkeeper*

**Board of Trustees**

Krista Schneider, *President*; Sue Childers, *Vice President*;

Geoff Slawson, *Treasurer*; Wes Kalbus, *Secretary*;

Kathy Crowther, Wendy DeBord, and Stasia Hanson, *At-Large Members*

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