



**TOLEDO
UNITARIANS**

First Unitarian Church of Toledo
3205 Glendale | Toledo OH | 43614
(419) 381-6999 | uutoledo.org
office@uutoledo.org



UU-FYI - OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

[No images? View as Webpage.](#)

9:45 AM - SPIRITUAL FORUM

On December 14, our Spiritual Forum presenter will be our own Angie Fitzpatrick! Angie will discuss vermiculture, or composting with worms. If you have a garden or are interested in improving the health of your soil, please join us!

11:00 AM - SERVICE



Join us this Sunday for our annual Holiday Music Service with special performances from our Choir!
by Jeffrey Maxie, Music Director and the First Unitarian Choir

[CLICK TO WATCH ON OUR YouTube
CHANNEL](#)



KIDS' ACTIVITY: PARTY TIME!

Our awesome kids have once again earned a celebration by displaying excellent, above-and-beyond behavior. The technical name of this shindig is the Pizza and Ice Cream Gummy Worm Birthday Party,

which is a type of party that the kids are unlikely to experience again. So don't miss out! Hope to see lots of faces there for the fun and games.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Saturday, December 13, 9:30 AM - AAUW Brunch* (by reservation)

Saturday, December 13, 11AM - Social Action Saturday*

Sunday, December 14:

- 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, December 16, 11:00 AM - Sunday Service Committee ZOOM*

Tuesday, December 16, 6:30 PM - Meditation Group via ZOOM*

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

Thursday, December 18, 5:00 PM - Community Dining at Beirut

PLEASE NOTE: There is NO Film Club in December and NO Blanket Making in December. Both will resume in January 2026.

*See [the Groups and Monthly Meeting document](#) for ongoing meet ups

FROM THE MINISTER

Being human means not being perfect. I was speaking with our Director of Lifelong Learning, Gini Gottman, recently, and I told her I was still searching for a topic for the UU-FYI “From the Minister” column. She said, “It’s a good time to let people know that if they drop any balls, it’s not the end of the world.”

So true, perhaps especially during the end-of-year holidays. To-do lists can get long, and in this season they might be accompanied by Christmas or Hanukkah lists of loved ones’ wished-for gifts. You do what you can, and I hope you remember to be good to yourself and maintain what equilibrium you can in a time of topsy-turvy.

Dropping balls are characteristic of this time of year, too. Football playoffs, a New Year’s Eve visual, and ornaments that should be on your decorated tree seem to want overnight floor time before you hang them again. Unless you’re on the gridiron, don’t look at your dropping balls as fumbling; it’s freeing your arms to be able to handle less a little bit better.

CARING AND SHARING



After Phil Park-Thomas "escaped" from Orchard Villa and was at home for several days, another complication in his healing journey sent him back to Toledo Hospital, where he is undergoing orthopedic and infection control procedures. He expects to be going home again soon, so please call him before visiting. Transportation and meal offers for his family are appreciated.

“UU’s 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, Barb Le Gros, Nessa Morningstar, Susan Smith (current chair @ sfrostsmyth7@gmail.com) and Rev. Tim Barger.

Please contact Joanne Hartough at joannehartough@gmail.com with any concerns or joys that you wish to share in this FYI column.

INVITATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

FIRST UNITARIAN ACTION COMMITTEE

Thank you, to all who contributed to the cost of the meal Unitarian Action is sponsoring at Saint Paul's Community Center shelter on Christmas day.



We collected \$185 toward our goal of \$200, and for contributions over \$200, we are considering gifts for the approximately 30 residents and 30 people off the street (60 people). SPCC Director Joe Habib suggested such items as a small flashlight, whistle, warm socks or a stocking cap. While our charity at this season of giving doesn't remove the many sources of homelessness it shows that First Unitarian of Toledo cares enough to show up and bring a little sunshine to their lives.

To save on the cost of desserts, we are asking congregation members and friends who are willing and able to provide cookies and other desserts. Cookies may be brought to the Christmas Eve service. Contact Joe Moran for questions. moranjosephd3217@gmail.com or 419-262-7859.



ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN IN TRYING TIMES

Enjoy a delicious Brunch at the Toledo Club; the beautiful annual Parade of Trees; well-known Feminist Speaker Lisa Maatz on “Advocating for Women in Trying Times”; and the story of Toledo Branch AAUW (American Association of University Women) on Saturday, December 13th, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon. Plan to attend, then phone Gail or Mickey, 419-270-8122 or 419-787-8258. Cost: \$25.00 per person to “AAUW/Toledo,” 2605 Evergreen, Toledo, OH 43606 by 12/5/25.

DECEMBER 13 SOCIAL ACTION SATURDAY



People need our help ASAP with this cold snap. I'm not sure if we could have made a difference for the individual that froze last weekend, but certainly there are many people who are in need these days. We can use all kinds of donations which have been listed time

and time again.

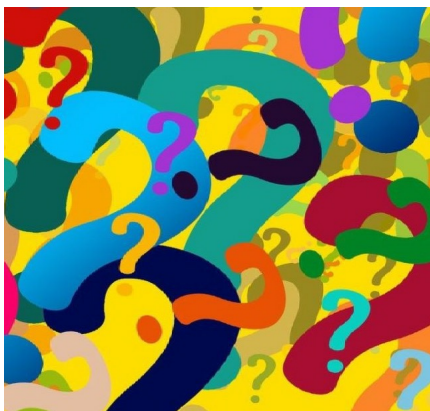
There are lists of suggestions on the BRIGHT Yellow social action Saturday donation box in the opposite door from the main entryway. With all the other things happening, the box has remained empty for a month. If nothing is donated, we have nothing to pack and distribute! Hand warmers are a really great item that can be purchased in bulk and separated individually. Gloves, hats, ear muffs, socks, lip balm, and other personal care items...and anything you can think of.

Please donate soon and often. We will be meeting in the Alcott room 12/13 at 11 am. Come and help us assemble care packages. A perfect sit-down project for all ages and abilities. If nothing else, come celebrate Melanie's 56th birthday...by helping those in need!

COMMUNITY DINING will meet at 5:00 PM on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at one of Toledo's favorite Lebanese restaurants - the Beirut, 4082 Monroe St., Toledo, Ohio 43606. <https://www.beirutrestaurant.com/> The restaurant has asked that we start our meal at 5:00 PM and has limited us to twenty people.



Enjoy the Beirut's delicious food and good conversation and fellowship by RSVPing before Dec. 16, 2025 to Stasia Hanson at hansonpsj2@gmail.com.



LOOKING FOR RPG FANS!

Did you know that there's a Unitarian Universalist role-playing game? There is, and it looks like fun. If you have a teen or tween who is interested in RPGs, or if you would like more information, please contact Gini Gottman at dll@uutoledo.org. Hope lots of friends turn out for this new experience!



LFH has immediate needs for the following donations: twin sheet sets, new twin blankets and pillows, bleach, toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, Q tips, Kleenex, razors, laundry detergent, diapers (all sizes), pull ups, baby formula. See the complete needs list at lfhtoledo.org.

To donate, you can use the donation box in our church lobby or contact Stephanie Reighard to schedule a drop off at sreighard@lfhtoledo.org. Questions? Contact Sue Childers.



REMINDER: Film Club will not meet in December. Join us January 17 to view and discuss "Wind River".

The Film Club members wish you a happy and healthy holiday season. We also suggest you seek out some more off-beat titles in your

holiday viewing, A favorite is A Christmas Memory, available on Amazon Prime and other streaming services. For more suggestions, check out <https://newenglandinnkeeper.com/best-underrated-christmas-movies/>.

OWL Facilitator Training

The Unitarian Universalist Church has developed a lifespan sexuality education program that offers evidence-based, inclusive and age-appropriate education to people of all ages. Are you interested in being an OWL teacher? An online training session begins in March of 2026. This session is for people who want to teach OWL to elementary-aged kids. If you're interested, please contact Gini Gottman, Director of Lifelong Learning, at dll@uutoledo.org.



GREEN SANCTUARY



Holiday celebrations are wonderful for bringing people together and making memories. But they also come with a cost, and not just to your bank account.

For example in the weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day in the U.S., studies show that trash accumulates faster (wrapping paper, food waste etc.), and greenhouse gas emissions rise (all that holiday travel!).

Think about what works for you to counteract that trend. For example, drive instead of fly, or offset the emissions from your flight. Instead of paper cards, send e-cards, or call, or visit. Time can be the best gift. Think before you gift. Many people would rather not have more "stuff." Maybe give a donation to a cause or membership to an organization that would resonate with the recipient, or share a special treat such as cookies. Decorate with LED lights. Reuse paper and packaging - use decorative boxes or gift bags that can be used year after year. Reduce food waste - send leftovers home with guests or take them to a local shelter.

No guilt, but with a little thought and imagination you can do your part to make the holidays just a little more sustainable.

NOTES AND NEWS



Two leading family services organizations in Toledo have now combined in an effort to strengthen housing stability for families in crisis. LFH has announced the acquisition of Family House with the help of \$290,000.00 in funding from the city of Toledo. This makes the resulting organization the “largest nonprofit in the region dedicated exclusively to serving families in crisis.



FEMA

As you all know, we have been approved for a \$150,000.00 FEMA grant. We had a long delay in moving forward on this grant due to the government shutdown. Although the Federal government "re-opened" on November 12th for grants, there is now an issue with the FEMA payment portal which prevents the states from accessing funds to provide reimbursement for our grant requests. FEMA says they are working on the problem, so we are in a holding pattern once again. I will update you as I receive more information. Questions/concerns? Contact Sue Childers.



Leading Families Home December 4th Winter Wonderland fundraiser was a great success! Nine of us represented First Unitarian Church at this event.

We enjoyed a wonderful buffet, cash bar, wine pull, silent auction, 50/50 raffle, and dancing.

Please keep it in mind for next year—we would love to have you join us! Questions? Contact Sue Childers @ readcrafts@yahoo.com

MEETING ROSTER

Weekly and Monthly Ongoing 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 TuesdaySunday Service Committee ZOOM call at 11:00 AM

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

Weekly AA meetings - see document link for times

1st Friday.....Book Club @ 2:00 PM

1st Saturday.....Knit Wits @ 11:30 AM

2nd Saturday.....Social Action Saturday @ 11AM-1PM **always check FYI for current schedule**

2nd Sunday.....Meditation @ 5:30 PM until December

3rd Saturday.....Film Club @ 1:00 PM

3rd Sunday.....Men's Group @ 5:30 PM
3rd Monday.....Together Women Rise @ 6:00 PM
4th TuesdayLGBTQ Online Support Group @ 8:00 PM
4th Tuesday.....Board of Trustees @ 7:00 PM
4th Wednesday ...Blanket Making @ 10:30 AM Resumes January 2026
4th Saturday.....Social Action Saturday @ 11AM-1PMalways check FYI
for current schedule
4th Sunday.....Meditation @ 5:30 PM
4th Sunday.... Potluck after Service
Community Game Day (following Potluck)

Is your meeting not listed? Submit your meeting details at
<https://uutoledo.wufoo.com/forms/first-unitarian-communications-request-form>



CHURCH INFO

WEBSITE NEWS

Be sure to take time to check out all of the events on our website. Go to; www.uutoledo.org and click on Calendar & UU-FYI. Also, many of our church forms are now online. Please use the link www.uutoledo.org/forms.

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,

Bookkeeper email: bookkeeper@uutoledo.org,

Minister email: minister@uutoledo.org.

ABOUT THE FYI

*Did you receive this FYI from a friend?
Would you like to receive your own copy? [Subscribe here!](#)*

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.

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*



First Unitarian Church of Toledo | 3205 Glendale Avenue | Toledo, OH 43614 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

