



**TOLEDO
UNITARIANS**

First Unitarian Church of Toledo
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UU-FYI - OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025

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9:45 AM - SPIRITUAL FORUM

This Sunday we will join with other UU congregations across the country to write holiday greetings to incarcerated UUs. Paper and pens will be provided, as well as some sample greetings to draw inspiration from. Many hands make light work, so we hope to see a big turnout for this important work.

11:00 AM - SERVICE



Shared Sustenance
Rev. Dr. TK Barger
November 23, 2025

Thanksgiving is a group time. For the history-bound American story version, it's communities of immigrants and the people already on the land coming together for a celebration. Today, Thanksgiving can bring together families, friends, congregations, and combinations of the different groups in your life. Meals are shared, and, through groups, lives are sustained. Thanksgiving is shared sustenance, with traditional and new ways. Let's celebrate.

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



KIDS' ACTIVITIES

This Sunday, our kids will have a cardboard party! Our room will be full of scissors, tape, glue and markers, and lots of cardboard

donations. The kids will emerge from the room as knights, robots, monsters, and probably esoteric video game characters. We will also continue our discussion of what will happen when the kids run the class. Hope to see lots of creative friends there!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Thursday, November 20 - 6:00 PM World Dining at Sweet Havana
Sunday, November 23:

- 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
- 5:30 PM - Sunday Evening Meditation via ZOOM*

Tuesday, November 25, 11:00 AM - Sunday Service Committee ZOOM*

Tuesday, November 25, 6:30 PM - Meditation Group via ZOOM*

Thursday, November 27, 1:00 PM - Friendsgiving Dinner*

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

Thursday, December 4 - 6:00 PM LFH Fundraiser Dinner*

Sunday, December 7 - last day to order Memorial Bricks*

NOTE: No Blanket Making in November or December. Will resume in January 2026

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

FROM THE MINISTER

Where did our former ministers go?

There are many answers to that question, but today’s response has to do with the pictures that had been on the wall in the east wing of our building. Our director of lifelong learning, Gini Gottman, has wanted all of the space there to be religious education-focused, decorated in a way that can appeal to the children in our church, and for that area to become what I’ve been calling the RE wing. We have removed the ministers’ photos and plan to hang the pictures in another location, possibly in the Capek Room. But before we do that, we’re going to take the time to scan and digitize those images so we can also put them on our [utoledo.org](#) website—and we’ll start trying to find photos of former ministers for whom we don’t have pictures. We haven’t forgotten our forebears, from Allen G. Jennings, our minister from 1887-1902, to Beth Marshall, our most recent “former.” They’re important to our church, in history and today.



(Pictured is Francis Ellingwood Abbot, minister of the Independent Society of Toledo, 1869 to '73, which predates our First Unitarian which began in 1887 with Allen G. Jennings as minister.)

CARING AND SHARING



Phil Park-Thomas continues to invite visits and calls from fellow congregants as he remains in rehab at Orchard Villa. Monday,

Wednesday, Friday and Sunday afternoons are best, as they can work around his dialysis schedule. Call first to make sure of timing. His driving remains curtailed until after 2 more surgeries anticipated this winter, so driving offers to his family are still most appreciated.



"May this be a time of gratitude and knowing that each person in this congregation matters! Through this Circle, may each of us feel the connection of caring, support and service. Happy Thanksgiving!"

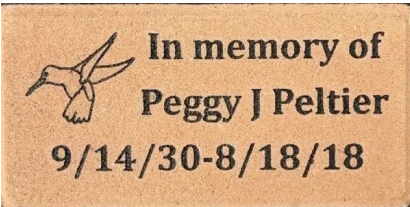
"UUs care! Please continue to communicate your concerns or celebrations with any member of the Caring Circle: Carla Logan-Mercer, Karen Christie, Phil Zepp, Suzanne Hoffman, Joanne Hartough, Becky Hrabovsky, Karen Porter, Terry Acocks, Kathy Crowther, Marsha Gamble, Susan Smith (current chair @ sfrostsmit7@gmail.com)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

GET YOUR MEMORIAL BRICKS NOW!

We are about half way through our sale of commemorative bricks which will be used to outline our re-planted memorial garden in the spring. Don't miss out - please fill out the form and send in your payment as soon as possible! Remember, that while the first brick is \$100; the second brick is \$50. Consider buying with a friend to lock in the second brick discount. You can download the form and more information at uutoledo.org.



Bricks can be purchased by check, Venmo, or credit card. Credit card sales are available on Sunday at coffee hour. Click the link on the first page of UUtoledo.org or look for the brick table at coffee hour on Sunday. Take this opportunity to remember a beloved family member, former congregant, or special pet.

Order deadline is Sunday, December 7.

WORLD DINING

will visit Sweet Havana, a new Cuban restaurant, at 1855 South Reynolds Rd., Suite F, Toledo, Ohio 43614 on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025, at 6:00 PM. This is one week earlier than normal because of Thanksgiving. "Escape to Havana in Toledo," and enjoy delicious food and good company! <https://sweethavanna.com/#menu> RSVP to Jarvis Gamble at jarvisgamble@gmail.com.



FRIENDSGIVING COMING SOON

Let's eat !!! Thanksgiving will be here before we know it! We will be holding our annual Friendsgiving celebration dinner on Thanksgiving day, November 27th, at 1 PM

in Fellowship Hall. If possible, please RSVP to Sue Childers at readcrafts@yahoo.com or 419-913-8724, so we can get an idea of how many are coming. There is also a signup sheet for food. If you can bring something from the list, please sign up. We hope to see you there!



WINTER WONDERLAND FUNDRAISER FOR LEADING FAMILIES HOME

Thursday, December 4th from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM.

This year's event will be held at the Temple Shomer Emunim, 6453 W Sylvania, Sylvania, Ohio. Tickets are \$25.00 each or \$200.00 for a table of 8. We would love to have a First Unitarian table so come join us! This includes buffet dinner, cash bar, wine pull, silent auction, 50/50 raffle and dancing.

There will also be a table decorating contest again this year. This festive evening brings our community together to support a cause that changes lives.

To purchase tickets, go to the [Leading Families Home website](#) and click on Events, then Winter Wonderland, then Purchase Tickets. Please let Sue Childers know if you will be attending so we can sit at a First Unitarian table!!!



First Unitarian Action Committee has two upcoming volunteer opportunities.

1. Connecting Kids to Meals. Friday, December 5th from 10 AM to 12 noon. There will be sit down jobs.
2. Christmas day. St Paul's shelter downtown is seeking organizations willing to provide a meal for 60 people from 3 PM to 5:30 PM.

Contact Joe Moran for details. 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.

GREEN SANCTUARY



GOOD GREEN NEWS #1

November is a month when many of us try to focus on gratitude, so the Green Sanctuary columns for this week and next will feature good news on the green front.

Some positive news actually came out of the Ohio legislature. For decades, I had been engaging in criminal activity, not knowing that Ohio law prohibited non-commercial entities (that is, people) from sharing native plant seeds. Yes, all of us swapping wildflower seeds with our neighbors had been breaking the law. But early in 2025, the Ohio legislature unanimously approved a bill that removed barriers to noncommercial seed sharing, and Governor DeWine signed it. So, if you grow an Ohio native plant that attracts our native bees and butterflies, feel free to share it!

And more good news from 2025: the H2Ohio program funded eight new wetland projects in northwest Ohio, for a total of 203 statewide—all new restoration projects since the program's creation in 2019. The projects here in the western Lake Erie basin will help reduce toxic algae blooms and protect drinking water for the humans and other creatures who make their home in this beautiful region.

Work remains to be done, but we have much for which to be thankful!

NOTES AND NEWS



Little Free Pantry Needs Ready-to-Eat Foods

Our observational market research shows that users of the Little Free Pantry really appreciate peanut butter, crackers, soup, tuna, mac and cheese meals, ramen, protein bars and other foods that are pretty much ready-to-eat. Canned beans, uncooked rice, dried beans, and canned vegetables don't get chosen.

Can you help by making purchases likely to get selected? Pop-tops on soup cans and other cans are also helpful. Remember, some of our users may have limited kitchens or may even be homeless.

Be Aware—Take Care !

November's safety topic focuses on food poisoning! According to the CDC, approximately 1 in 6 Americans (about 48 million Americans) get food poisoning. Every Thanksgiving



approximately 1 million people in the US get sick from contaminated poultry each year! So...how do we prevent food borne illness?

*Always wash your hands, surfaces, and utensils in hot water and soap for at least 20 seconds and dry thoroughly

before and after making food.

*Rinse fruits and vegetables thoroughly

*Keep your frig clean

*Separate foods to stay safe—keep raw meat, poultry, seafood and eggs away from other foods

*Use separate cutting boards for raw meat, poultry and seafood to decrease cross contamination

*Raw chicken doesn't need to be washed before use—running it under tap water can spread germs to the sink and counter and other foods

*Cook it right

*Don't leave food at room temperature

*Frig should be 40 degrees F or below

*Freezer should be -18 degrees C or below

*Keep warm/hot food in shallow containers before refrigeration

*Put perishable food in the frig after no more than 2 hours of being out at room temperature

*Do not thaw raw food on counter

*Keep up to date on food recall information

GIVING TREE

Coming soon !!! It's hard to believe, but Christmas will be coming before we know it! We will be participating again with our Christmas gift giving for Leading Families Home and Salem Lutheran Church. Our giving tree is up! As always, you will pick stockings off the tree for people/things you want to buy. Gifts will need to be purchased and turned in by the second week in December. We will be having another "wrap party," as usual. More information to come!



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 (or last) Sunday.... Potluck after Service

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?
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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.

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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