



**TOLEDO
UNITARIANS**

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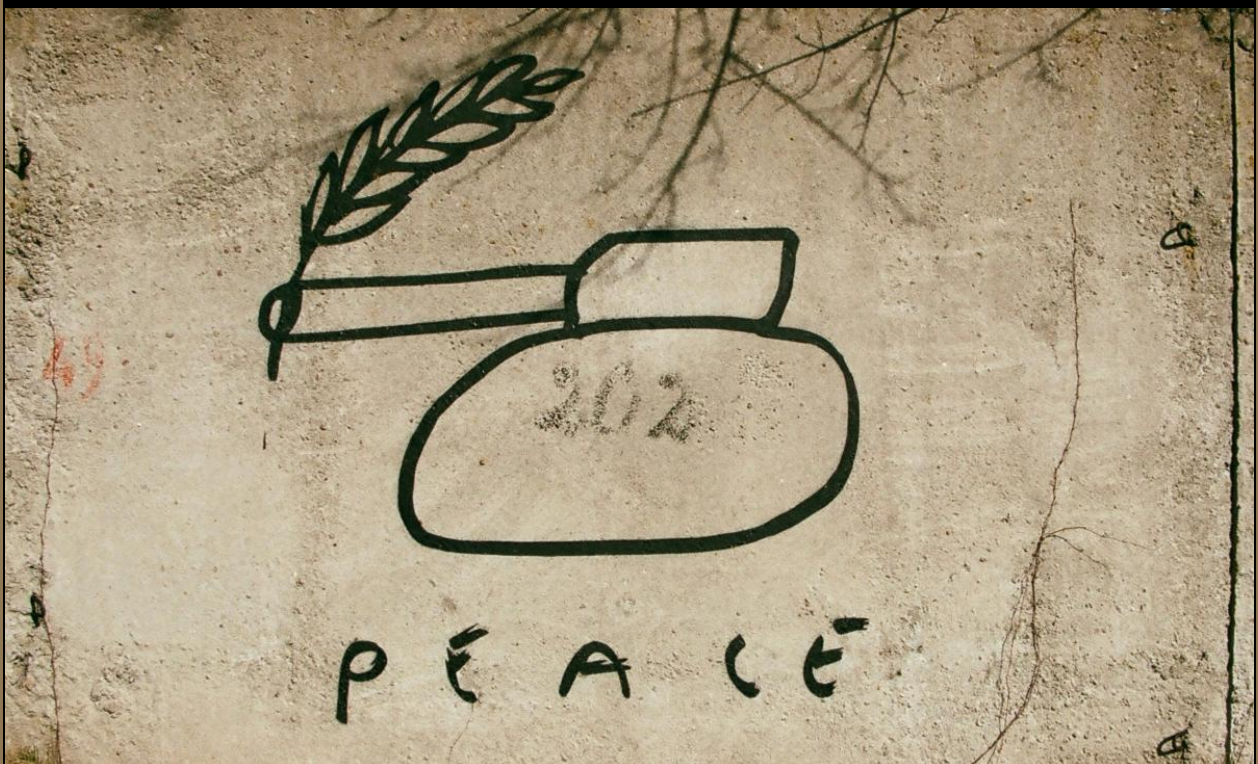
UU-FYI - OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025

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

9:45 AM - SPIRITUAL FORUM

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Joe Moran will lead our Spiritual Forum on November 9, discussing his experiences as an American service member in Vietnam. Please join us for this insightful and timely discussion.

11:00 AM - SERVICE



War, Peace, Government, and Morality Rev. TK Barger

It's almost Veterans Day—begun as Armistice Day to celebrate finally achieving peace and marking the end of the “war to end all wars,” which was several wars ago. More than a hundred years later, current U.S. leaders want to change the name of the Department of Defense to the Department of War. Other Americans are remembering calls to establish a Department of Peace. What do we do about war and peace?

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



KIDS' ACTIVITIES Our kids have been brainstorming ideas to create collaborative, vibrant spiritual exploration. On November 9, we will continue imagining what that spiritual education could look like. All voices are needed! Hope to see lots of excited friends on Sunday with lots of ideas.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Thursday, Nov. 6, 4:00 PM - First U Walking Group at Cannonball Prairie Metropark

Friday, November 7, 2:00 PM - Book Club Meets*

Saturday, November 8. 9:30 AM - KnitWits Meet*

Saturday, November 8 - Holiday Bazaar (*see article below*)

Sunday, November 9:

- 9:30 AM - Choir Practice
- 9:45 AM - Spiritual Forum
- 11:00 AM - Service In Person + on our YouTube Channel
- 12:00 PM - Holiday Bazaar (*see article below*)

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

Tuesday, November 11, 6:30 PM - Meditation Group via ZOOM*

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

Saturday, Nov. 15, noon - First U Walking Group at Manhattan Marsh Reserve Metropark.

Saturday, Nov. 15, 1:00 PM - Film Club

Sunday, November 16 - Committee Fair after service

Monday, November 17, 6:00 PM - Together Women Rise

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

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

Tuesday was the “off-year” election, and the highest office on the ballot in Toledo was mayor. Only one other race had more candidates than slots to fill: for the City Council at-large seats.

When the votes were counted, Wade Kapszukiewicz was reelected as Toledo’s mayor, for his third term, which was made possible by an earlier city vote to expand the term limit. And for City Council, special congratulations go to Nick Komives and Mac Driscoll, our council members with close connections to First Unitarian. Both were reelected.

It was a special voting day for my family—you might remember that my wife, Jewel, became a U.S. citizen in April. This was the first election in which she could cast a vote.

Though I might have suggested whom to choose in a contested race—and I was voting on the machine next to hers—I promise I didn’t peek to see her ballot screen. Another joy was to see Krista Schneider, our church’s board president, at the curb as we were leaving Old Orchard Elementary School after we voted.

Krista was there as a member of the Democratic Party, handing out push cards listing the candidates endorsed by her party. This is one small instance of “UU the Vote” and the importance of the democratic process in living our Unitarian Universalist religion.

It might be a hard time for us U.S. citizens in some aspects these days, but let’s keep at it.

CARING AND SHARING



image by gerd altmann from pixabay

Longtime member Jane Burns, age 80, passed away on October 20, 2025 at Hospice of Northwest Ohio Ebeid Center. A visitation will be held at Reeb Funeral Home on Friday, November 7, from 11:30 am to 2 pm, followed by a short service at 2 pm. We send our condolences to Mike Burns and the entire Burns family.

We continue to send healing thoughts to Susan Smith, Judy Murray, Phil Park-Thomas, and Kathy Willis, as they deal with health issues. Messages of cheer are always greatly appreciated.

"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

**Please support the 2025
First Unitarian Church
Holiday Arts & Crafts
Bazaar!**

Here's what you can do:

1. Attend the event and shop! Planning has gone well.

We have lots of great items for sale including paintings, glass, knit and crocheted items, greeting cards, house plants, holiday themed pillowcases, ornaments, journals, bookmarks, hats, furniture and oddities, art work and more. There will be a UU table of holiday decorations, a bake sale, food and drink service and a raffle for themed baskets all created by different church personnel and committees. There is something for everyone. Please come and shop. Cash, Check and Credit Card will be accepted.

2. Volunteer during the sale! Physically volunteer as a runner, sell raffle tickets, work the bake sale or food service, or sell items from the UU donated holiday table. Many people have already signed up and only a few more helpers are needed for each of three shifts: Saturday, November 8th, 9 AM to 12 noon or 12 noon to 3 PM, or Sunday, November 9th 12 noon to 3 PM. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes to 1/2 hour early for instructions. Please use the [attached Sign Up Genius](#) link to pick your spot or let Marna or Sandra know if you can help out. Duties include sitting in for vendors who need a break, taking sales slips from the vendor to the check out table, selling raffle tickets and food service.

3. Donate bake sale items for the bake sale and holiday items for the UU Holiday-Themed Crafts table. Make items for the bake sale and/or go through your holiday decorations and donate those items you no longer use to be sold at the UU holiday decoration table. Also, if you are crafty and have handmade items you could donate a few, that would be greatly appreciated. Please bring your holiday decoration, donations and bake sale items to church either Friday night between 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM or after 8 AM on Saturday.



4. **Help publicize this important fundraising event.** Talk to your friends, family, and coworkers, copy our church Facebook posts to your own account or create an event about the event for your social media.

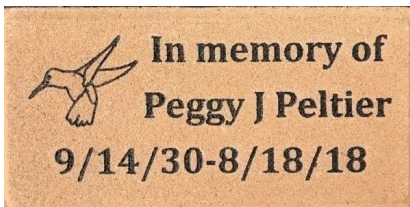
5. **Buy raffle tickets and win an amazing raffle basket.** These special themed baskets were created and donated by church members and committees.

BASKETS: Join the fun of creating and possibly winning a Raffle Basket! If you are a member of a social group or committee (Book Club, Choir, Kitchen, Meditation, etc.) gather your people and start working on a theme (chocolate, relaxation, exercise, etc) for your basket and let Marsha Gamble know to avoid duplication. If you have a basket or ribbon that you could donate that would lend itself for assembling baskets, please let Marsha, Marna or Sandra know. Thank you!



MEMORIAL BRICKS

Sale of memorial bricks began on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025 and will run through Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025. Bricks can be purchased by check, Venmo, or credit card. 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.



THE FIRST U WALKING GROUP

We will meet twice in November. (1) Thursday, November 6, 4:00 PM, at Cannonball Prairie Metropark, (2) Saturday, November 15, noon, at Manhattan Marsh Reserve Metropark. Contact David Strickler if you have any questions or suggestions.



(click image for link)

First Thursday Series, **Culture at the Crossroads:** (Lunch time Speakers) meets at the Monroe Street Methodist Church *3613 Monroe St. Our Unitarian Action Committee is a co-sponsor of the series.

Here is the next the topic and speaker:

Nov. 6: DEI, Suppression of School Curriculum/Free Speech Issues with Lynn Hamer.

Admission is \$15.00 and includes lunch, or bring your own lunch and admission is \$5.00.

FILM CLUB

Our next meeting will be Nov. 15 at 1 PM in Fellowship Hall. We will have a potluck followed by the movie, ***The Life of Chuck***, a 2025 film based on a novella by Stephen King. It is directed by Mike Flanagan. The

movie will be followed by a short discussion.

This film was featured at Chautauqua Institute this past summer. The film's plot follows the formative moments in the life of Charles "Chuck" Krantz, chronicled in reverse chronological order, from his death coinciding with the end of the universe to his childhood. The Life of Chuck had its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival on September 6, 2024, where it won the People's Choice Award (Wikipedia). Hope you can join us!



COMMITTEE FAIR COMING SOON

Coming November 16th !! First Unitarian's Committee Fair. Are you on a committee?

We would love to have all our committees represented at this fair. Please bring posters, etc. about your committee. This will be an excellent opportunity to recruit new members!



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

Meeting and Potluck Dinner
Monday, November 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM
First Unitarian Church



Grantee: *Asante Africa Foundation* [Kenya]

Single mothers and at-risk young women in rural Kenya are severely underrepresented in the economic market and in the STEM field in general. This project seeks to bridge the gender economic divide by training and certifying cohorts of single mothers in digital literacy and STEM education to alleviate poverty and increase their economic potential. The model has proven to upskill and advance young mothers.

Bring a dish to share and your own table service and serving utensils.

For more information on Together Women Rise, please visit togetherwomenrise.org, or contact Susan Spiegel at saspieg@yahoo.com or Marcia Klunk at mgklunk@sbcglobal.net

All are welcome!

Bring a friend to share in good food and conversation while learning more about the world around us.

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 1pm 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!



GREEN SANCTUARY

Leave the Leaves

While October was officially Leave the Leaves month, our area's trees are not yet bare, so it is not yet too late to take one of the most eco-friendly actions imaginable.



Instead of sending your leaves to a landfill, leave them where they fall, or as close to it as you can safely manage. (We do not, after all, want to encourage slippery pathways and broken bones.) Fallen leaves are home to overwintering butterflies, moths, and fireflies. When leaves are bagged and landfilled, all those joys of summer go with them. Raked under trees or into planting beds (leafblowers being hazardous to eggs, larvae, and insects), leaves provide habitat for the aforementioned insects, as well as other creatures like bumblebees and salamanders.

Songbirds like thrashers and robins forage in the leaf layer, providing free entertainment for birdwatchers. Leaving the leaves also benefits plants. When leaves decompose, they provide nutrients and improve soil texture, helping to create the rich loam that so many plants need. Why pay for topsoil when you can improve what you have for free? Leaving the leaves benefits animals, plants, and the household budget.

For more tips on doing more by doing less yard work, check out this tip sheet from the National Wildlife Federation: [How-to-Leave-the-Leaves.pdf](#).

NOTES AND NEWS

Our annual **POINSETTIA SALE** has begun! Order forms are available at church. If you have any questions, please see Ginny Washing.





Our most recent Social Action Saturday was held Saturday October 11th at 11 AM. We had tons of donations and were able to assemble 35 Blessing Bags. Pam Stevens had a few different places where they could be distributed. There is no shortage of need in our community. The donation bin has remained emptied since then. When donations arrive, we will schedule the next action Saturday. We can use all kinds of products that people use to take care of their basic needs. Please note they should be individually wrapped and small enough to fit into a gallon bag. Hats scarves and other items to help people keep warm are also good donations



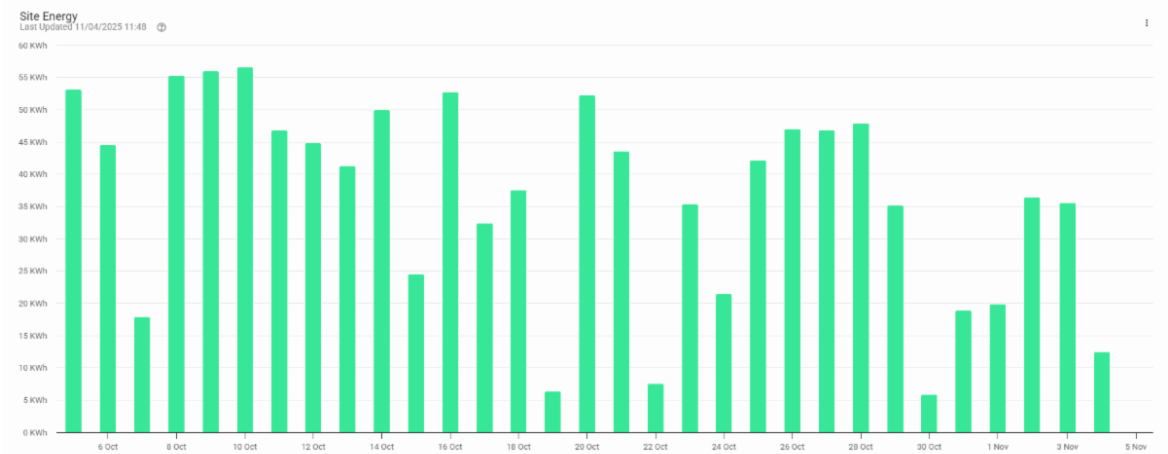
GIVING TREE

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 will be going up soon. 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” like usual. More information to come!



WOW TAKE A LOOK!

Here is a graph of the power generated by our solar panels. (Click the graph for closer detail)





With proposed federal funding changes, there may be a shortage of resources for food and staples in the Toledo area. A limited supply or budget constraints could certainly affect members of our congregation as well as our surrounding neighbors.

This, then, seems to be a good time to encourage our show of "service" and support. Please continue to bring non perishable, canned goods and personal hygiene items to the church entry way bins.

Remember, this support is meant for UU members as well as any others in need. We already pool our resources with other programs and continue to fill our outside pantry. So, in the spirit of UU caring, bring in what you can and take home what you may need!

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 board 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

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 Please 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-1PM Please 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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