



TOLEDO
UNITARIANS

First Unitarian Church of Toledo
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UU-FYI - OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025

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

9:45 AM - SPIRITUAL FORUM

Join us for Spiritual Forum on October 5, when our guest speaker will be Claudia Annoni from EatWell Cafe (formerly SAME Cafe). Our church has always supported this important resource for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. We will learn about the changes at the cafe and how our church can continue to support its mission in its new iteration. Hope to see you there!

11:00 AM - SERVICE

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Dictionary

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Definition

1

a

often capitalized : one who believes that the deity exists only in one person

b

capitalized : a member of a denomination that stresses individual freedom of belief, the free use of reason in religion, a united world community, and liberal social action

2

: an advocate of unity or a unitary system

Other Words

unitarian

adjective often capitalized

unitarianism

\ yŭ-nə-ter-ē-ə-ni-zəm

noun often capitalized

First Known Use

circa 1651, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a](#)

History and Etymology

New Latin *unitarius*, from Latin *unitas* unity

11 AM Sunday, October 5, 2025 What Does "Unitarian" Mean Today? Rev. Dr. TK Barger

We'll spend three Sundays this fall to consider terminology, using some theology and religious history, to have better understanding of aspects of Unitarian Universalism.

First up is "What Does 'Unitarian' Mean Today?"

On two Sundays in November, we'll ask about the present meanings of Universalist and Humanist.

Our church is First Unitarian, we're a Unitarian Universalist congregation, and Rev. Tim has a Humanist approach. Some focus on these terms might help us better understand how we honor seeking—and sometimes finding—while drawing inspiration from world religions, from science, and from arts and letters.

KIDS' ACTIVITY

On October 5, the kids will again tap into their creative minds! The church is creating welcome bags for new members, and the kids will draw representations of what church means to them. Chalices, joys and concerns, science experiments - anything that they associate with our church community. More artists are always better, so we hope to see a lot of friends there!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Friday, October 3 - 2:00 PM - Book Club*

Saturday, October 4 - 11:30 AM - Knit Wits*

Sunday, October 5:

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

Monday, October 6, 6:00 PM - "Blessings of Diversity"

Tuesday, October 7, 11:00 AM - Sunday Service Committee ZOOM*

Tuesday, October 7, 6:30 PM - Meditation Group via ZOOM*

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

Saturday, October 11 - 11 AM to 1 PM - Social Action Saturday*

Sunday, October 12 - 10:00 PM - First U Walking Group at Swan Creek*

Tuesday, October 14 - 1 PM to 3 PM - UUA Threshold Conversations*

Wednesday, October 15 - 6:00 PM - First U Walking Group, TBA*

Friday, October 17 - 7:00 PM - Jim Scott Concert

Saturday, November 8 and Sunday, November 9 - Holiday Bazaar

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

FROM THE MINISTER

I'm writing this on the first of October, and the federal government shutdown has just begun. I'm trying to quell the voice in my head that's asking if it will ever reopen. The current presidential administration doesn't seem to think much about conducting what I've heard referred to as "the business of the United States," and instead is trying to institutionalize ideology that was pretty much spelled out in Project 2025. Do you remember that Donald Trump, when campaigning, claimed that he didn't know about that project? The people whom he chose to be his top advisers certainly did.

This shutdown has put another rift in the practices of Congress and in its relations with the executive branch. In my following the news, I think that courts won't be much help, as most lower courts seem to have enough logic and reason to make practical decisions, but then the Supreme Court is giving the executive branch more leeway.

Anyway, I'm not a political scientist, and two of my early jobs as a young adult, proofreader then legal editor for a state legislature, don't give me special insight about how government works in back rooms, hallways, and offices. I just hope that the blame and rhetoric aspects along with grandiose words about dealmaking get over with soon, and that the elected office holders and their staffs will reach compromises that will actually help the nation and its people.

The longest federal shutdown, 34 days, was in 2018—during the first term of the current president. That was also the most recent shutdown, and was not a complete government shutdown like this one. I have a feeling, no more than that, and no grounding on which to base that feeling, that this could last longer.

In theory, the shutdown should have little impact on First Unitarian Church of Toledo. I’m wondering if the security grant in progress for which we’ve been declared eligible but are still doing paperwork to try to secure it—and thanks to Sue Childers for continuing to do the seemingly endless tasks required—isn’t affected because the federal government has released the funds to the state of Ohio, which will administer the grant, so if we get all the required documentation done we should still receive it. We don’t really know if “release “ means Ohio now has the money, though. I also have the thought that the grant won’t move forward while the shutdown is in effect because those funds could, again in theory, disappear.

What’s more important for us immediately is to give attention to one another. The news said that payments from Social Security and government-administered support won’t be affected—but we don’t know that for sure, and continuing personal and community needs don’t disappear because of government activity or inaction. The federal government does much more day-to-day that we don’t realize until it’s disturbed, so expect glitches. And many of us will worry. So be kind and compassionate, help your neighbors, and keep some optimism; we need all of that.



Jane Burns recently entered Hospice of NW Ohio. We continue to send thoughts of peace and comfort to Jane and Mike Burns in their health journeys.

ANOTHER change for Phil Park-Thomas. Phil is being admitted to Toledo Hospital again today and expects to have surgery on his ankle tomorrow. He misses his U-U friends and often asks for updates from church. Please offer support and transportation to his family as they navigate this recent development.

* * * *

“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 @ 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



“ If the only prayer you say in your entire life is thank you. It will be enough.” Meister Eckhart 13th century theologian

I am very grateful for the celebratory potluck on Sunday. What a great way to celebrate! Food! Cake! Ice cream! I probably like cake - chocolate and vanilla - way too much!

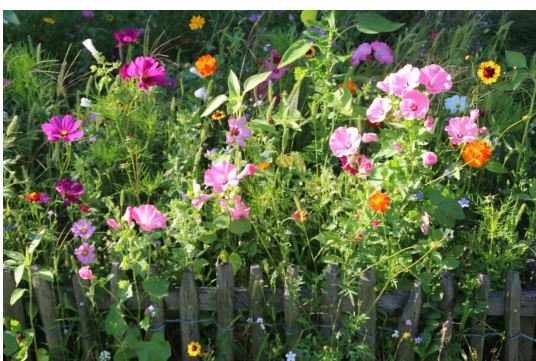
I am in deep gratitude for all of your gifts, hugs, words of encouragement and questions. I have spent what feels to be a couple of lifetimes with some of you and you have watched me grow from a young adult to a middle aged adult. Yes! I have existed on the planet for 55 years! (Even though some of you see me as a kid, my youthfulness probably lies more in my openness, curiosity, and compassion than appearance.)

Some of you--including those now departed--have been counsel to me and offered me an ear or a meal when I most needed connection and care. Wherever I have gone and whatever I have been doing, this congregation and the friends associated have been a “Stone Love” when I needed an anchor. Of course, I could only want to be more involved as reciprocity for all you have done for me.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity,
Melissa



Photo by Denny Henry/UUA



Memorial Garden Renovations - Memorial Brick Campaign

COMING TO THE MEMORIAL GARDEN
BRICK CAMPAIGN AHEAD

You may have noticed that work has started on renovation of the Memorial Garden on the southeast side of the church.

The garden has been neglected and overrun by invasive plants like vinca and thistle. Plants given in memory of a loved one have been carefully removed to a temporary nursing bed in the community garden. They will be re-planted. The hope is to clean out the bed this fall, amend it with good soil and nutrients in the spring, and replant the garden.

If you are interested in helping with garden design, please contact Stasia Hanson. In conjunction with the renovation, the church is planning a sale of memorial bricks to better commemorate loved ones and former church members. Stay tuned for more details!

Volunteer Activity Thank You!

Seven members and friends of 1st UU volunteered at the Islamic Food bank on Saturday September 27th. They included Barb Lagros, Audrey Ruhm, Krista Schneider, Tom Sheehan, Jacob Moran, Joyce Moran, and Joe Moran. We not only met our bag quota of 400 bags of food by 12:00 pm but exceeded it by 11:30 am!



We are planning future volunteer dates at the Islamic Food bank and Connecting Meals to Kids. If you would like to participate in this important "service as prayer" activity, please contact Joe Moran at moranjosephd3217@gmail.com



The Blessings of Diversity on Monday October 6, at 6 pm, will be hosted by First Unitarian Church. Representatives of ten local faith traditions will present readings and music or poetry on the theme "The Golden Rule". Light refreshments and fellowship will follow.

These services are sponsored by the MultiFaith Council of NW Ohio.

You are asked to bring a non perishable food or hygiene item for our little pantry and social justice collections.

We might need a few volunteers to help greet and assist Carla to prepare refreshments. We want to share our warm hospitality to our guests



SOCIAL ACTION SATURDAY OCT 11, 11AM-1PM

Due to an influx of donations, social justice enthusiasts are invited to attend Social Action Saturday to help assemble Blessing Bags to

distribute to the less fortunate.

We can still use more donations such as small deodorants, soaps, shaving supplies. If the forecast looks cold, we'll also want to pack hats, gloves & scarves. Thank you to everyone that has helped, and looking forward to having even more!



The First U Walking Group will meet twice this month.

(1) Sunday, Oct 12, 1:00 p.m. Swan Creek MetroPark (Glendale entrance).

(2) Wednesday, Oct 15, 6:00 p.m., location TBD.

Contact David Strickler if you have any question or suggestions.

david.pickstrum@gmail.com

THRESHOLD CONVERSATIONS

On October 14, the UUA is hosting a watch party of panelists discussing the Unitarian Universalist theology of covenant.

What is a covenant, and is such a thing relevant today? What is the lived value of a covenant? What it could mean to call or be called back into covenant?

The discussion is recorded; a live Q&A will follow. The time will be from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Gini Gottman at dll@uutoledo.org so we will know which room to reserve.



Now accepting vendors for the 2025 First Unitarian Annual Holiday Bazaar!!

Saturday, November 8th, 9AM to 3PM
Sunday, November 9th, 12 Noon to 3 PM

If you have participated in the past or know someone who might be interested, please use this link to complete the [Vendor Interest Form](#). We will get back to you once your application is accepted.

Vendor items should be handmade, PG-13, and could follow a traditional holiday/winter theme, but that is not necessary. The vendors will need to have someone at their booth at all times, but we will have volunteers available to assist them. We will have lunch, dessert and bottled drinks for sale, but they can also bring their own lunch.

Vendor set up times are Friday, November 7th from 5 PM to 8 PM or Saturday, November 8th prior to the sale starting at 8 AM. They may leave their items set up overnight Friday and Saturday, but we are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Vendors may request a half or full 8-foot table. We will have cashiers who will handle sales by cash, check, or credit card. Vendors will get

paid 75% of their gross sales plus 100% of sales over \$800. Checks will be sent within 2 weeks of the sale.

If you have any ideas or questions, talk to Marna or Sandra or email at marnaslaw@sbcglobal.net.

Please share this information with your friends and family!

**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 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 SaturdayWalking Group @ 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

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](https://uutoledo.wufoo.com/forms/first-unitarian-communications-request-form)*

GREEN SANCTUARY



You've likely noticed the tall plants with yellow flowers everywhere lately - in gardens, along roads, in fields. I'm referring to goldenrod, which farmers consider weeds, but they are actually one of the last blossoms that support pollinators in the fall, as well as birds that

enjoy their seed heads. It's especially critical for honeybees, as well as monarch butterflies storing up for their long flight south.

There are are over 100 varieties, so there's one that will do well in just about any condition - sun or shade, wet or dry. One downside is that they can be fairly aggressive so need to be controlled in some environments. They are deer resistant, good for erosion control and as natives, they are low maintenance. Their blossoms have been used as a traditional medicinal herb by native Americans, and were used to make Liberty Tea after the Boston Tea Party.

Since they bloom at the same time as Ragweed, they have become guilty by association. However, ragweed pollen is small and light, spread by wind, whereas goldenrod pollen is large and sticky, spread by insects and hummingbirds. It's possible to have an allergic reaction to goldenrod, though rare. One would have to come in contact with it to pick up the pollen.

Goldenrod is considered a Keystone Species that has extreme importance to wildlife. So enjoy the color as well as the insects flying around, and leave the seed heads for the birds.

NOTES AND NEWS

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

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

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