



**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, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025**

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

9:45 AM - SPIRITUAL FORUM

Spiritual Forum at 9:45 AM on September 21st will be a poetry reading/discussion session. You can bring poems to read that you wrote or ones that others wrote. Everyone is invited and welcome to participate. We have done this before, and it was well received and enjoyed by everyone present. Please come and read your poems.

11:00 AM - SERVICE

Faiths4ClimateJustice:

SUN  **DAY**

**SHINE A LIGHT FOR
CLIMATE JUSTICE**

SUN DAY

Sunday, the 21st day of September, is the day before the autumnal equinox. It's also two days before Rosh Hashanah, which marks a new year for Jewish people. For our 11am gathering we'll be calling Sunday Sun Day and talk about climate justice while praising the use of solar and other renewable energy. Ours will be just one of many national Sun Day observances over the weekend, tied to the

Fatihs4ClimateJustice efforts of the organization GreenFaith. Maybe for that day, we might be Toledo Sunitarians?

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



KIDS' ACTIVITIES

On September 21, the kids will continue the work of creating their group covenant. The covenant is our promise about how we will be together in community, welcoming all and respecting all. It's weighty UU work, and it's an important part of the kids' spiritual development. Hope to see lots of friends there!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Saturday, September 20, 1:00 PM - Film Club meets*

Sunday, September 21:

- 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

Sunday, September 21, 6:00 PM MultiFaith International Day of Peace*

Sunday, September 21, 5:30 PM - Men's Group*

Tuesday, September 23, 11:00 AM - Sunday Service Committee ZOOM*

Tuesday, September 23, 6:30 PM - Meditation Group via ZOOM*

Tuesday, September 23, 7:00 PM - Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 10:00 AM LFH Blanket Making*

Thursday, September 25 - Community Dining at El Ticio*

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

Saturday, September 27 - 10:30 AM-Noon - Unitarian Action volunteer activity at the Islamic Food Bank*

Sunday, September 28 - "Celebrating Melissa Jeter" Pot Luck*

Friday, October 19 - 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

Near the end of last Sunday's service, Krista Schneider and I took a chance and held an "altar call," inviting people interested in becoming members of First Unitarian to come forward and sign the membership book. I said that, though in the sanctuary we don't have an altar on which to praise the supernatural, we do have a table with chalices and some people do call it an altar.

When I was a child in the Methodist church, near the end of every service the minister would call for those who want to declare their conversion to Christianity and/or join the church to come forward. On rare Sundays, someone would go to the altar.

Before our Sunday service, some people who knew this was going to happen had asked me if we had lined up people to sign. I said that we hadn't; in the tradition of my early upbringing, you might say I was depending on the spirit to move us.

I'm happy to say that we have five new members. At that "altar call," Cathy Miller, Gene Miller, and Tim Reichard signed the book. They had already made pledges, and while I had invited them to membership earlier this year, the opportunity on Sunday got their names in ink.

Just after the service, Naomi Kasturianachi and Jared Cook, new to us but not to Unitarian Universalism, made a pledge and signed the book. We're happy that they didn't need much time after experiencing our Toledo Unitarians ways to be a part of our open circle.

We now have 11 members who signed the book in 2025—you have to go back a dozen years for a higher yearly number of new members. Since I began as your called, settled, full-time minister on February 1, 2017, we've had 64 people sign the membership book; the list of voting members at the May annual meeting numbered 138, so that's almost half the total. Regardless of congregation, it's always the case that some people don't stay long before they seek elsewhere, and there is loss of life for others, but new people continue to be attracted to Unitarian Universalism and to the people and activities of First Unitarian Church of Toledo. They sign the book, they start to be active in helping our church to thrive, and we all work in our ways to make the world a better place while serving our sacred selves, too.

If you're not yet a member, would you like to be? If you support the principles and values of Unitarian Universalism and want to make a pledge and sign the membership book—satisfying the three requirements for membership at First Unitarian Church of Toledo, Ohio—please contact Krista Schneider, who is our board president, or me, the senior minister, and we'll welcome your officially becoming a Toledo Unitarian.

CARING AND SHARING



Jane Burns is entering Hospice of NW Ohio care with care taking place possibly in the Ebeid Center. Expression of care will be of comfort to Jane, Mike and their family. Reverend Tim is attempting to visit and will keep us apprised of further opportunities to best communicate

Update: Phil Park-Thomas is currently at Toledo Hospital and will be having surgery on his ankle today or Friday, so his need for transportation is currently suspended. His family, however, may still need transportation and help with groceries. Please contact Susan Spiegel (saspieg@yahoo.com) if you can help out. She will keep volunteer drivers updated as needs change.

* * * *

"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

The Film Club returns this Saturday, September 20 at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will share a potluck lunch, view the film *MirrorMask*, followed by a short discussion. Lisa Blake will facilitate the discussion. Bring your own beverage and tableware. Please use the back entrance.



This visually arresting film, *MirrorMask* focuses on a young woman unhappy with her daily existence; the artistically inclined Helena (Stephanie Leonides), is at odds with her circus performer parents. When a careless insult appears to send her mother (Gina McKee) into a coma, Helena withdraws into the dark and elaborate world of her drawings, in which a scenario very similar to her predicament in the real world is unfolding.

International Day of Peace Celebration

The MultiFaith Council local celebration of the International Day of Peace with Blessings of Diversity and Dances of Universal Peace will be Sunday, September

21, at 6:00 PM at our neighbor, Park Church, 1456 Harvard Blvd, Toledo 43614. The event will feature the Toledo Dances of Universal Peace, readings and music or poetry on the theme Peace by representatives of ten local faith traditions, making prayer flags, and light refreshments. If you can bring a nonperishable food item, we are collecting for those in need. Melissa Jeter and Judy Trautman will represent our church. Please help make this a special celebration. We need Peace. [See attached flyer for more information.](#)



Excellent Food at El Tipico

On Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 6:00 PM, Community Dining will visit one of Toledo area's favorite Mexican restaurants,

El Tipico. Located at 1444 South Avenue, [El Tipico](#) is known for its authentic Mexican food. Join us for this special outing by texting Carla Logan-Mercer at 419-250-9646. Our group size is limited to 20 participants.



Volunteer Activity Reminder!

A reminder that the 1st Unitarian Action committee has scheduled a volunteer activity at the Islamic Foodbank at 1801 Monroe Street on Saturday September 27, 2025 from 10:30 am to 12 noon. We have 8 of our members set to participate now. If you are interested in participating, please contact me (moranjosephd3217@gmail.com or 419-262-7859), so I can inform the food bank. This is an important opportunity that fulfills our Covenant words each Sunday that "service is its prayer" and to "help one another". May it be so.



Celebrating Melissa Jeter!

Join us on potluck Sunday, September 28, in Fellowship Hall after church as we celebrate our Melissa Jeter who graduated from the Methodist Theological Seminary in May. She is now a Minister in Formation/Candidate for UU Ministry, and is in the process of working through her internship, with lots of reading and studying yet to complete. We were delighted that Melissa joined us for Ingathering Sunday. What a treat to hear her dynamic presentation of the hymn she wrote, "If There Ain't Room for Me," which has been included in the new on-line UU hymnal. See you Sunday, September 28, at the potluck; cake and ice cream for dessert!



Annual Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 8th

Sunday, November 9th

See next week's UUFYI for more details



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 Committtee 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 Not meeting until further notice

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

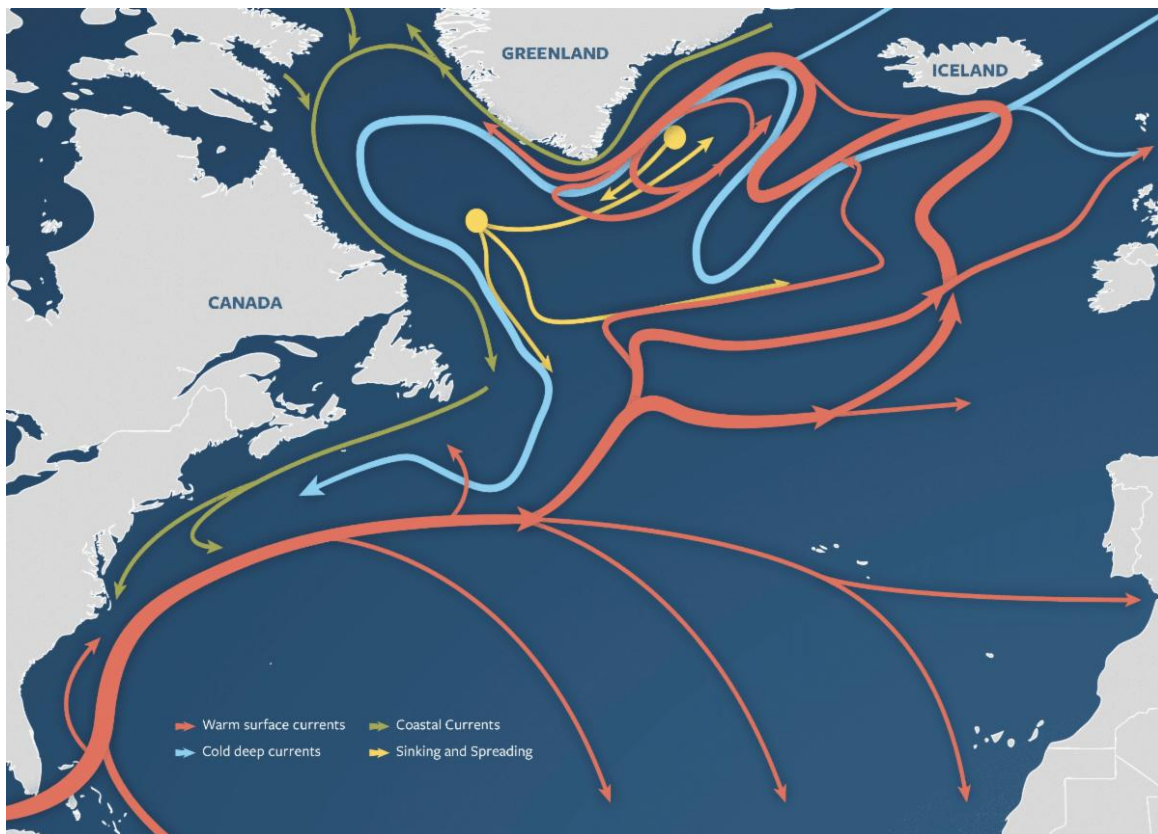
4th Saturday.....Social Action Saturday @ 11AM-1PM Not meeting until further notice

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>

GREEN SANCTUARY



What Will the Day After Tomorrow Look Like?

Last October, 44 oceanographers from 15 countries published an open letter warning of the potential collapse of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, or AMOC. On August 28 of this year, a study published in Environmental Research Letters concludes that a collapse is no longer a low-likelihood event, with the tipping point likely to be reached sometime in the next few decades if global temperatures continue to rise.

For those whose last earth science class was a long time ago, AMOC is the “conveyor belt” of ocean currents that sends warm water from the tropics northward and gives northern Europe and North America a much milder climate and longer growing season than they would otherwise have. So, what does a collapse mean?

A new Ice Age is unlikely; instead, the probable outcome will be greater weather extremes, with much colder winters in northern Europe, the northern US, and Canada, along with hotter summers, more intense storms, and longer droughts. Growing seasons will be shorter. Rain pattern changes are likely in the tropics, with the possible loss of huge areas of rainforest. Species loss will accelerate, and food shortages are likely. Sea levels are predicted to rise eighteen inches or more along the southern Atlantic coast of the US. Oceanographer Stefan Rahmstorf believes that we have not yet passed the tipping point for total AMOC collapse. In his view, reducing carbon emissions enough to hold the earth's temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the goal of the Paris climate accords, would minimize the threat to the ocean currents that control so many of the systems we depend on. The day after tomorrow need not be a disaster, but we have to act to create that future.

NOTES AND NEWS



Solar Interest Group Update Submitted by Judy Murray

As a first step, our group has been investigating the productivity of our current solar array. We realized that we did not currently have

communication with the panels so did not have current output information. Working with our original vendor, YellowLite Solar Design and Installation, and with help from Randy Ellingson, we were able to reconnect to the panels and now have current information.

Also, we now have a link on our church website, UUToledo.org, at the bottom of the homepage, where you can access our production in real time.

We are currently working with our vendors to tweak our production and hopefully get them working to their optimal capacity. Jeffrey Maxie, has graciously offered to monitor the production on a regular basis to ensure that we do not lose communication again.

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 | fyi@uutoledo.org | 419-381-6999 | www.uutoledo.org/

See what's happening on our social sites:



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

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



Try email marketing for free today!