



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 7, 2025

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9:45 AM - SPIRITUAL ADVENTURES

Join us for Ingathering on September 7!
For Ingathering, which is something of a homecoming ceremony after summer ends, Spiritual Forum will be a performance by our ukulele orchestra! Please come prepared to experience the fruits of our summer lessons and practicing. Hope to see you there!



COMING UP: Poetry Session

The Spiritual Forum at 9:45am on Sept. 21, 2025 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.

FROM THE MINISTER

IT'S INGATHERING TIME!

Come back into the community if you took the summer off. Get ready to do some of the work of your church in committees, groups, and teams. Make Sundays at 3205 Glendale part of your habit again.

We'll be starting the "church year" this Sunday with a water ceremony; music from the ukulele chorus of people who learned to play at some Spiritual Forums over the summer, taught by David Strickler; and I'll have a sermon titled "One Thing I Can Tell You Is You Got to Be Free."

For the water ceremony, if you want to bring some water you collected during your summer travels or other activities, you're invited to do so—but we expect most didn't have it on their minds this summer to gather a bottle of water for when they would go back to church. So we're supplying the water and hope you'll have a few words on what water means to you, how it's important, where you enjoyed water over the summer, or how ecology might be improved by protecting natural waters.

I'm grateful and appreciative of the people who led summer services; I don't think I had been able to be out of the pulpit all the way from after our annual meeting to our ingathering until this year—and I've been here eight and a half years now.

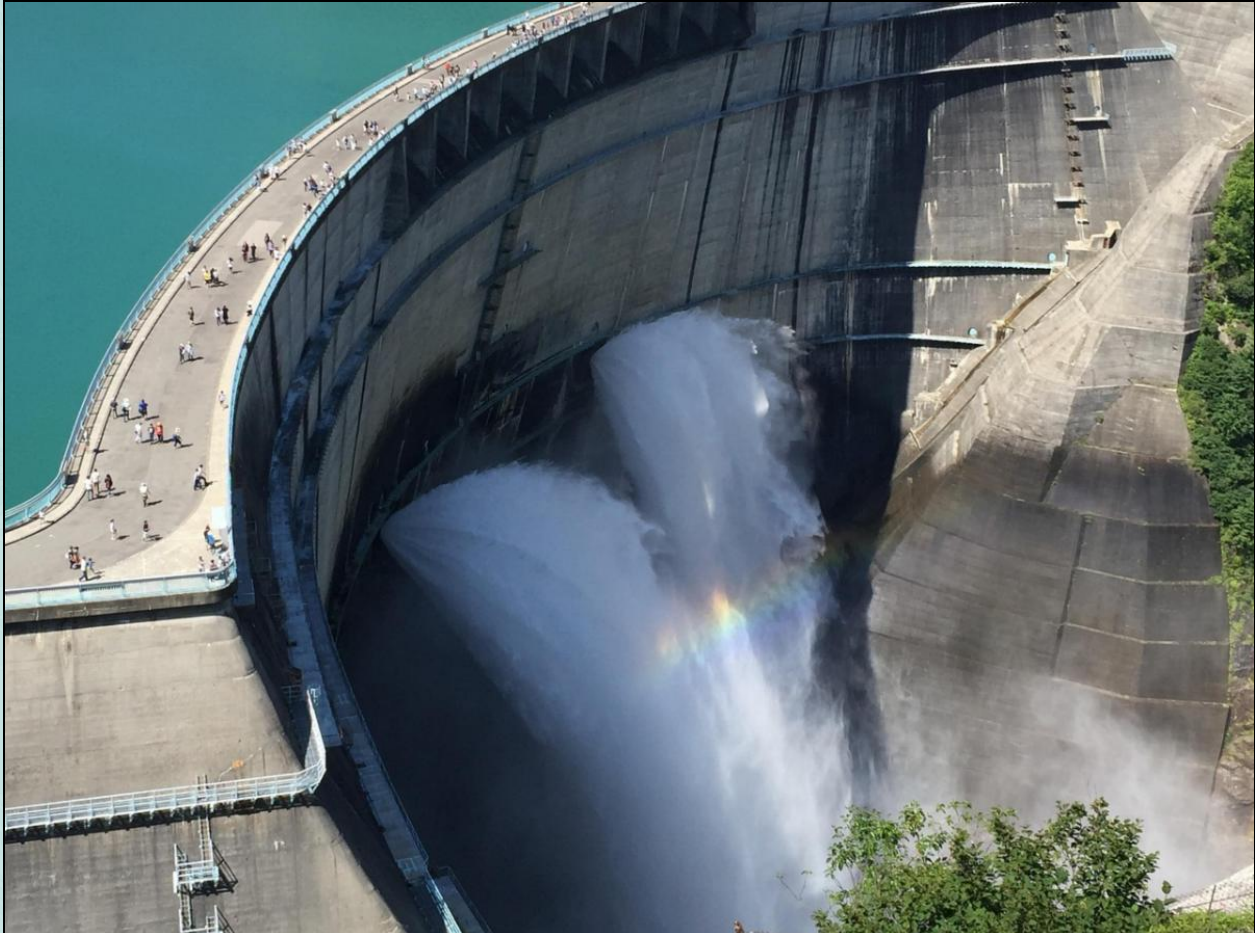
Thanks to those who preached: Andy Gottman, Gini Gottman, Melissa Jeter, Terry McCauley, Julia and Walter McGhee, Joe Moran, Bonnie

Olson, Phil Park-Thomas, Rebecca Phillips, Keith Rasey, Krista Schneider, Susan Spiegel, and David Strickler; to Jeffrey Maxie for an additional Sunday of music along with people from our congregation; and, once again, having the General Assembly service livestreamed.

Thanks also to the people who were service associates: Karen Christie, Stasia Hanson, Melissa Jeter, Terry McCauley, Rebecca Phillips, and Tom Sheehan.

Now, after 15 Sundays without preaching—though I was at Sunday services sitting in a pew a few times—we'll see if I remember how our services go. And no, this won't be a Sunday in which I'll preach extra long to make up for missed time.
See you at Ingathering?

11:00 AM - SERVICE



INGATHERING AND WATER CEREMONY

Sermon

One Thing I Can Tell You Is You Got to Be Free.

Rev. TK Barger

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



KIDS' ACTIVITIES

On September 7, the kids will have a party for Ingathering! Join us for lots of fun, sweet treats, and merrymaking before we kick off our new year of learning. Hope to see lots of friends at the celebration!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Thursday (today) 10AM -4 PM Rummage Sale/drop-off donations

Friday & Saturday, September 5 & 6 - Church Rummage Sale*

Saturday, September 6 - Knit Wits meet*

Sunday, September 7:

- 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, September 9, 11:00 AM - Sunday Service Committee - ZOOM*

Tuesday, September 9, 6:30 PM - Meditation group via ZOOM*

Friday, September 12, 2:00 PM Book Club* (NOTE date change)

UPCOMING EVENTS (see articles below for more info)

Saturday, September 20 - Film Club meets*

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

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

CARING AND SHARING



image by gerd altmann from pixabay

This week we are sending healing wishes to Phil Park-Thomas, who fell recently and broke his ankle in two places. He is home, but will require surgery soon. He has been told that he will be out of commission for 12 weeks. Please send get well messages and cards to his home address.

As we wrap up Summer and slide into Fall, thanks to all the staff and members who contributed the varied and interesting services that were held over the summer. We will be celebrating our Ingathering service as we resume officially our 2025-2026 year together. Looking forward to that together time! The Caring Circle

“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

RUMMAGE SALE

Last Minute Notes

Please do not bring any donation items after 1 PM on Thursday.

The Rummage Sale technically starts at 10AM on Friday and Saturday so we need the volunteers who are signed up for Friday and Saturday AM to arrive between 9:00 and 9:15 am so we can assign and explain/train you on what needs to happen.

Annual Rummage Sale!
September 5 & 6

First Unitarian Church of Toledo ~ 3205 Glendale Ave.

for more information
www.uutoledo.org
(419) 381-6999

There will be a line outside the door before 10AM, so we will open as soon as all volunteers are in place. We are still in need of help on

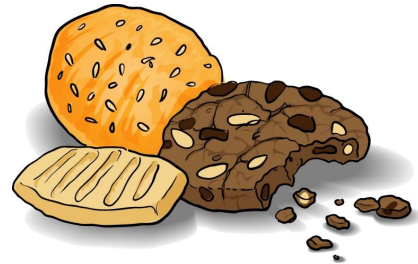
Friday and Saturday.

Because the sale items are down the hallways, we need a monitor(s) to sit at designated spots to answer questions and to assure no one goes in rooms or out the side doors. Easy sitting job.

We will need people Friday 9:15 am to 4 pm and Saturday 9:15 am to 3 pm. Any part of a shift will help. Please email Marna @ marnaslaw@sbcglobal.net if you can help out and what hours you can be there.

Looking forward to a profitable and fun-filled Rummage Sale. Thanks in advance for all your help.

We will need lots of bake sale items, so please plan to bring some goodies, and if you are interested in working at the bake sale or lunch counter, please see Carla. Please bring contribution to Fellowship Hall Friday and Saturday by 9 am. With the bake sale, there also will be chips and pop for sale. This is one opportunity to use your time and talents in support of the church. Please sign up to help, as many hands make for light work for all.



The First U Walking Group will meet twice this month. (1) Wednesday, Sep 17, 6:30 p.m. Oak Openings. (2) Saturday, Sep 27, noon, Fallen Timbers. Watch this space for updates on specific meeting spots.



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 Starts back in September

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

GREEN SANCTUARY

Lake Erie's Toxic Algae:

The Bad News and the Good



The now-annual Lake Erie algae bloom is with us and as of August 24, extends

from Magee Marsh to Stony Point, Michigan, with the highest concentrations of cyanobacteria in Maumee Bay. This year's bloom started earlier than usual, in June rather than July, perhaps a warning sign for future years. Thus far, the concentrations of bacteria have not been high enough to pose serious threats to human health or endanger drinking water supplies, but as the bloom season continues, that situation could change for the worse.

The primary contributors to the increase in problem algae are a warming lake and phosphorus runoff from agricultural fertilizer. Unfortunately, the national government has cut funding for the agencies that monitor the lakes and has essentially canceled all climate change monitoring. (And despite our recent spell of cool weather, the Great Lakes are much warmer than they used to be.) In Ohio, there is no mandate to reduce phosphorus runoff, only voluntary targets that have yet to be met. This year, the legislature cut funding for H2Ohio, the state program for improving water quality, by nearly 40%. Our nation and state are abandoning their responsibility to the lakes that hold some 90% of our country's freshwater supply.

The good news is that at least some localities are addressing the problem even when state and national governments are not. Here in Lucas County, the Metroparks system has for the last several years been involved in stream restoration, marshland protection and restoration, and brownfield mitigation. These efforts include not only such visible gems as the downtown Glass City and Middlegrounds Metroparks or the 1000-acre Howard Marsh, but smaller-scale projects like the recently-completed Prairie Ditch restoration at Secor Metropark, filtering the stream that flows through Toledo's Junction neighborhood into the Maumee and ultimately into Lake Erie.

All of us who depend on clean water need to support our local efforts and pressure our state and national legislators to protect this vital resource.

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.

We received \$101.43 from Kroger

because of the generous people that shopped there and chose us as a non-profit to donate! Thank you!



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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