



**TOLEDO
UNITARIANS**

First Unitarian Church of Toledo
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UU-FYI - OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

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9:45 AM SPIRITUAL FORUM

Join us at Spiritual Forum on January 11 for our quarterly "Ask the Minister!" Rev. Tim will answer our questions, sacred and secular, and talk about general church-related matters. Come prepared to ask questions about, or learn about, our church community!

11:00 AM - SERVICE



ABOLITION, STILL NEEDED

Abolition, Transformation, and Faith Formation was voted as the Congregational Study Action Issue for 2025–2028 at the 2025 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly. This Sunday at First Unitarian Church of Toledo, Rev. Tim will speak on "Abolition, Still Needed," bringing the issue to us. Abolition didn't go away with the Emancipation Proclamation; forced servitude—slavery—is still existent in our world. How might we address it?

**Follow along LIVE on the Toledo
Unitarians You Tube Channel.
Click logo to go to the channel:**



KIDS' ACTIVITIES

On February 11, the kids will begin using our new Board of Unusual Activities! This Board (essentially a Plinko board with various options written in) will determine our plan for the day. Will we work on our classroom covenant? Will we choose a charity to support? Will we have a day of

tabletop games? Only the Board knows. Hope lots of friends are there to have fun with us!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Friday, January 9, 2:00 PM - Book Club*

Sunday, January 11:

- 9:45 AM - Spiritual Forum in Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 AM - Service in person or on YouTube
- 12:00 Noon - Coffee and Conversation in Fellowship Hall
- 2:00 PM - First U Walking Club at Woodlawn Cemetery*
- 5:30 PM - Meditation Group*

Tuesday, January 13, 11:00 AM - Service Committee ZOOM*

Tuesday, January 13, 6:30 PM - Meditation Group via ZOOM*

Saturday, January 18, 1 PM. Film Club*

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

Monday, January 19, **NOON** - Together Women RISE Luncheon*

Wednesday, January 21, 4 PM- First U Walking at Secor Metropark*

Saturday, January 24, 4 PM - 7 PM Snowball Event*

Wednesday, January 28, 10:30 AM - Blanket Making*

Wednesday, January 28, 5:30 PM - Social Justice Meeting via Zoom*

Thursday, January 29, 6:00 PM - Community Dining at Amma's Kitchen*

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

FROM THE MINISTER



It's playoffs time for college and professional football. No Ann Arbor or Columbus university team is still competing, and Detroit was eliminated from the NFL road to the Super Bowl.

It's been fun for me to have moved as an adult to an area in which there are decidedly divided team loyalties—the Wolverines and the Buckeyes, the Rockets and the Falcons, the Lions and the Browns (and that's just for football).

I wasted a considerable amount of time compiling a list of the mascots I have had an association with. The only teams I played on were for kids' baseball; I was only good enough for the "big" Little League when I was

12, but my small Arkansas town had minor leagues so I started as a Dodger, became a Red, and finally got to Little League as a Giant. My school athletics were as a Monticello Junior Billy in seventh grade football (on the sideline as a manager the next year) and briefly as a junior varsity Sewanee Academy Tiger in soccer.

Not a lot of organized athletics for me, but consider the team names and mascots of schools I attended or worked at, and university hospitals where I worked as a chaplain or that gave me significant care. Listed more or less chronologically, from earliest to most recent, I have been a: Pirate; Hillbilly/Billy; Tiger; Mountain Lion; Titan, renamed the Red Devils; Trojan; Warrior; Longhorn; Owl; Lumberjack; Orangeman, renamed Orange; Cardinal; Violet; Honey Badger; Maroon, with Phoenix as the mascot; Wildcat; Ram; Rocket; and Spartan.

And now, is our First Unitarian mascot Jupiter Jetpig? Should I add that to my list?

If you have sports loyalties or school allegiances, may your teams do well—if not this year, then soon.



CARING AND SHARING

Sierra Webb and David Klassik , together for 2 years, were married by Rev. Tim in a home ceremony last September. Sadly, David has now been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer and is currently in treatment. Cards of support are encouraged and can be sent to the church office.

There is also a fundraising "Koncert 4 Klassik" on January 17th. Please watch the UU Facebook page for more information.

Sadly, our beloved member, Gwen Wilson, died on Sunday, January 4th, 2026. As arrangements are made and a service is planned, we will publish information in the FYI to update the congregation.

Phil Park-Thomas remains home and dedicated to recovery. He, Tania, and son Evan wish to thank all who have helped with transportation for Phil to his dialysis and doctor appointments over the past 3 weeks.

Phil has been approved for TARTA transportation to get to dialysis and doctor appointments. There is still a need for transportation to get to grocery store pickup, pharmacy and errands.

Also, a once-weekly Meal Train is being set up. We have the start of a list of members able to assist for these transportation and food needs. Please email Susan Smith at sfrostmith7@gmail.com if you wish to be added to this team in any category.

"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, Barb Le Gros, Nessa Morningstar, Susan Smith (current chair @ sfrostmith7@gmail.com) and Rev. Tim Barger.

INVITATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Join us on Saturday, January 24 for a first-of-its-kind fabulous function, the Snowball!

Wear your comfortable semi formal party clothes and your dancing shoes to join us for an evening of merriment and refreshments!

This will be a great way to shake off the winter doldrums and have fun with your fellow Unitarians!

Tickets are five dollars at the door, which will cover unlimited food and nonalcoholic beverages. Beer and wine will be available for \$2 per drink ticket!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Amelia Bickerstaff at 501-313-8548.



Our first meeting of the year is January 17th at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will share a potluck, view the film, *Wind River*, and then have a short discussion of the movie.

For planning purposes, we meet the third Saturday of each month with a break for summer.

"Wind River" is a crime/thriller/contemporary western about the disappearance of young women from Native American reservations. Often these crimes are not taken seriously by the local police and continue uninvestigated and unchecked.

"On one of Cory's (a tracker) hunting expeditions, he comes across the frozen body of a young woman...He recognizes her as Natalie (Kelsey Asbille), the best friend of his teenage daughter, who also died mysteriously a few years earlier.

Since the death occurred on the Wind River reservation—and Natalie, like Cory's daughter, was Native American—the tribal police get involved in the investigation, led by the great Graham Greene as the dryly humorous, no-nonsense chief. But so, too, do the feds, in the form of newbie FBI agent Jane Banner (Elizabeth Olsen). She's been sent from the Las Vegas office and is so ill-equipped for this place and this weather that she has to borrow snow gear..." - RogerEbert.com

The First U Walking Group will meet twice in January.

Sunday, January 11, 2:00 p.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery, 1502 Central Ave. Toledo's 2nd oldest cemetery is a 14 min drive from church.

Wednesday, January 21, 4:00 p.m. at Secor Metropark, 10001 W Central Ave, Berkey, OH. If we are lucky we will see the barred owl that has recently been reported there.





REMINDER

Reminder: Our monthly **blanket making** will resume on January 28th starting at 10:30am. Everyone is welcome—just show up in Fellowship Hall. These blankets are donated to Leading Families Home each month.

An additional perk of making blankets is we always go out for lunch afterwards!!! If you have sharp scissors, please bring them. This is a project with no skills required! Questions or concerns— contact Mary Souther.



REMINDER

Reminder: The first **Social Justice** meeting of the new year will be held January 28th at 5:30 pm via Zoom. All are welcome. If you have questions or if you would like to attend this meeting, contact Cindy Gilmore to get on to the mailing list for Zoom information.



The First Thursday Series at Monroe Street Methodist Church, 3613 Monroe Street, resumed in January. First Unitarian Church's Unitarian Action Committee is a co-sponsor of the series. Here are the remaining topics and speakers:

- January 8: Christian Nationalism: What is it and Should I be Concerned? with Larry Clark
- February 5: Climate Change: Implications Locally and Beyond with Julie Shapiro and Gregory J. Brier.
- March 5: Investigating Reality: Discovering Truth in Media with John Krochmalny
- April 9: "Thoreau at Walden" and Civil Disobedience with Cynthia Nowak

Admission is \$15 includes lunch or \$5 if you bring your own lunch.



MULTIFAITH COUNCIL OF NORTHWEST OHIO WOMEN'S GROUP
CHAPTER

Together Women RISE

Meeting and Potluck Lunch

Monday, January 19, 2026

12:00 Noon

(**note earlier meeting time during winter months)

First Unitarian Church
3205 Glendale Avenue
Toledo, Ohio

January Grantee: **Adelante Foundation (Honduras)**
Project Title: Equal Access: Advancing Gender Equity through
Microfinance

Adelante's mission is to empower enterprising women with the least opportunity to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

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.

JOIN COMMUNITY DINING AT AMMA'S KITCHEN



Amma's Kitchen is a new Indian restaurant serving southern Indian food and positively reviewed in both "The Toledo Blade" and the "Toledo City Paper."

Community dining will check it out on Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Amma's Kitchen is located at 7629 Sylvania Ave., in the Kroger shopping center at Sylvania and King roads. See <https://www.ammasingiankitchen.com/> for more information.

Please RSVP to Stasia Hanson at hansonpsj@sbcglobal.net before Tuesday, Jan., 27, 2026.

GREEN SANCTUARY



STYROFORM RECYCLING

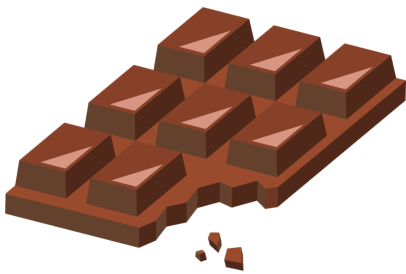
Some suggestions to make the work of those who take the Styrofoam from the garage to be recycled:

Separate the food item Styrofoam that needs to be taken to Ann Arbor from the packaging Styrofoam such as coolers and pieces that come with ordered items, which can be recycled locally at Lott Industries.

If you remove any tape and keep it separate, it saves work for us when we pack it up and take it to Lott. Our church is wonderful at recycling Styrofoam - so much kept out of the landfill! Keep up the good work!

But remember--avoiding getting take-out Styrofoam is even better. Take your own container and water bottle!

NOTES AND NEWS



Candy Bar Fundraiser

We are continuing to sell chocolate candy bars through January. Assorted candy bars are available for \$2.00 and \$3.00. Look for them in Fellowship Hall after Sunday services.



HOLIDAY GIVING TREE

We had another extremely successful Giving Tree event for 2025. We bought presents for 16 people from Leading Families Home and 5 from Salem Lutheran Church. We held our annual “Wrap Party” as well.

Both organizations were very grateful to our church. We had many volunteers helping to buy and wrap gifts.

Thanks to everyone for your help making this a memorable holiday season. In addition, many thanks to Rich Miller for putting up our Giving Tree. Gini Gottmann will be speaking with the RE children to request that they make some homemade ornaments focusing on themes of hope, thankfulness, giving, homelessness, etc. The plan is to put these ornaments on the Giving Tree next Christmas as the Christmas stockings are removed, so the tree remains decorated. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Sue Childers.



On Christmas Day seven of us, as part of the Unitarian Action Committee, prepared and served a full dinner to 25 residents of St Paul's Community Center and later 35 individuals living on the street outside the shelter. The meal included meatloaf, chicken kabobs, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn,

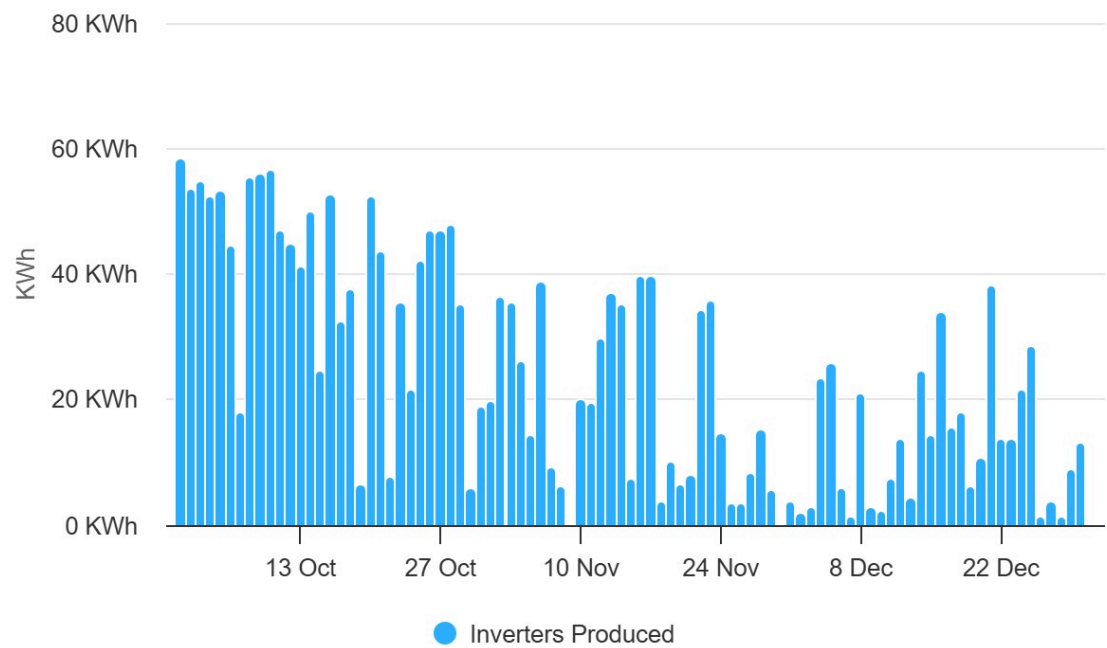
rolls, and lemonade.

Thanks to our church members, there were also many desserts. We are grateful, too, to the many that contributed money for the food-- we collected \$120, and for members of Social Action Saturday who prepared gift bags containing socks, gloves, and other items. Those that participated in the dinner from our church included Sue, Cindy, Keith, Pam and friend Greg, Joe, and, from the Islamic Center, our wonderful chef Emmett Kadri. We received many expressions of gratitude from the shelter residents and staff. Our plan is to repeat the dinner next Christmas and possibly provide another near Easter. **WE ARE UNITARIANS IN ACTION!**

SOLAR ENERGY PRODUCTION

Happy New Year! The graphic below shows our solar energy production for the fourth quarter of 2025, October 1 - December 31, 2025. Our total output for this time period was 2,192.01 kwh. If you would like to monitor our production in real-time, access the monitoring data from the church website, uutoledo.org. The link is in the carousel at the top of the webpage. If you have questions, contact Judy Murray,

Energy Overview



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 (Noon meetings January-March)
- 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 always check FYI for current schedule
- 4th Sunday.....Meditation @ 5:30 PM
- 4th Sunday..... Potluck after Service & Community Game Day (following Potluck)

Is your meeting not listed? Submit your meeting details at <https://uutoledo.wufoo.com/forms/first-unitarian-communications-request-form>

CHURCH INFO



[CLICK HERE FOR THE WEATHER CLOSINGS POLICY](#)

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*

Beverly Huss, *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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