



**TOLEDO  
UNITARIANS**



**First Unitarian Church of Toledo**  
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**UU-FYI - OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER  
FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026**

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**9:45 AM SPIRITUAL FORUM**

Join us for Spiritual Forum on January 18, when our guest will be our own Dr. Julia Kalbus! We took a poll to see what topic our congregation would like to hear about, and the most votes went to back pain, so Dr. Kalbus will talk about causes and treatments of common back pain. Come prepared to learn what your doctor wants you to know.

**11:00 AM - SERVICE**



**The Inclusive Gospel of Universalism  
by David Strickler, Commissioned Lay Leader**

This service will start with the story of John Murray, who is credited as the first person to preach “the inclusive gospel of Universalism” in North America. I’ll then present two individuals who widened the circle of Universalism to be more inclusive in the earthly realm — namely, Olympia Brown as the first female Universalist minister and Joseph Jordan as the first Black Universalist minister.

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



## KIDS' ACTIVITIES

On January 18, our kids will discuss our recent plans to put our UU values to work by supporting the Toledo Humane Society! We will discuss fundraising possibilities and timelines. After that, we will reward ourselves by playing with tabletop games, balls and pool noodles. Hope to see lots of friends there!

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Saturday, January 17, 1 PM - Film Club\*

Sunday, January 18:

- 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
- 5:30 PM - Men's Group\*

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

Tuesday, January 20, 11:00 AM - Service Committee ZOOM\*

Tuesday, January 20, 6:30 PM - Meditation Group via ZOOM\*

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

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

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

Saturday, January 24, 11 AM - Social Action Saturday\*

Sunday, January 25 - Church Potluck and Community Games\*

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

Let's spend part of the spring and summer of 2026 preparing for regular lay-led Sunday services that would happen throughout the year, to start in the fall.

The way to do that is to revitalize our Sunday Services Committee and have the committee, rather than me as senior minister, provide the structure and coordinate the content of the Sunday services when I'm not in the pulpit. Included on the Sunday Services Committee will be a representative from the Music Committee and one from the Religious Education Committee to help with

[{CLICK HERE FOR THE REMAINDER OF ARTICLE}.....](#)



## 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 is home, and was once again able to join his many friends at church last Sunday, thanks to TARTA Move paratransit service. 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 months.

Phil has been approved for TARTA transportation for medical and persona needs. Friends continue to provide transportation for his family for grocery pickups, pharmacy, and other 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 [sfrostsmith7@gmail.com](mailto:sfrostsmith7@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 @ [sfrostsmith7@gmail.com](mailto:sfrostsmith7@gmail.com)) and Rev. Tim Barger.*

*Please contact Joanne Hartough at [joannehartough@gmail.com](mailto:joannehartough@gmail.com) with any concerns or joys that you wish to share in this FYI column.*

## INVITATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES



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

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## UUA's "30 days of Love" begins Monday, January 19

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) uses the month between Martin Luther King Day and Valentine's Day to provide special programming called "30 Days of Love".

This year's theme is "Reimagining the World as It Could Be". Watch this website for their schedule of events. There is a sign-up if you want to receive notifications. [Click this link for more information.](#)

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**The First U Walking group** will meet Wednesday, January 21, 4:00 PM. 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.



## 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.

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## SOCIAL ACTION SATURDAY

Please continue donating personal hygiene items to the yellow social action Saturday box at church.

All are invited to meet on Saturday, January 24th at 11:00 AM to assemble care packages for our unhoused neighbors in Toledo. We will gather for lunch afterwards at a nearby restaurant.

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**Potluck: the 4th Sunday of every month!**



Sunday, January 25 we will be having a brunch. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon provided.

## REMINDER

**Reminder:** Our monthly **blanket making** will resume on Wednesday, January 28th starting at 10:30 AM. 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 Wednesday, 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:

- 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, which 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

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

Adelante's mission is to empower enterprising women with the 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](http://togetherwomenrise.org) or contact Susan Spiegel at [saspieg@yahoo.com](mailto:saspieg@yahoo.com) or Marcia Klunk at [mgklunk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mgklunk@sbcglobal.net).

All are welcome!

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

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## 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.amasindiankitchen.com/](http://www.amasindiankitchen.com/) for more information.

Please RSVP to Stasia Hanson at [hansonpsj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hansonpsj@sbcglobal.net) before Tuesday, Jan., 27, 2026.

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Tina Baker, who has been on the committee that brings you this FYI newsletter, is looking to step away from the role. Thanks, Tina, for your dedication and effort to ensure accurate, weekly communication with our congregation!

Luckily, Marna Slawson has been sharing the job over the past year, and has experience with the Constant Contact software, is able to train new volunteers, and has volunteered to take the role going forward.

In order to build a robust team of people who want to help with one aspect or another, we are putting out feelers for folks who want to come forward and join in the process of distributing the church's weekly newsletter.

[Click here to see potential roles and needs for this volunteer opportunity.](#)

If any of this interests you, please reach out to Marna at 708-738-5096 or [marnaslaw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marnaslaw@sbcglobal.net) to discuss this opportunity.

## GREEN SANCTUARY



# FaCT

Faith Communities Together  
for a sustainable future

## LINE 5 AND THE GREAT LAKES

Every month, the Ohio-based organization FaCT (Faith Communities Together for a Sustainable Future) offers a Zoom webinar on an

environmental topic. On January 24, Michigan pastor Michael Mulberry presents on the dangers to the Great Lakes from Line 5 oil pipeline.

Michigan governor Gretchen Whitmer revoked Enbridge oil company's right-of-way under the Straits of Mackinac. Unfortunately, a federal district court recently decided that Governor Whitmer's revocation of Enbridge's right of way under the Straits cannot be enforced as the federal government has jurisdiction over interstate and international pipelines like Line 5.

For more information and to learn what you can do, register for the webinar here: <https://factsustain.org/newsletter/january-24-pastor-michael-mulberry-presents-on-the-dangers-to-the-great-lakes-from-line-5-oil-pipeline/copy>

## 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.

### Be Aware—Take Care !!

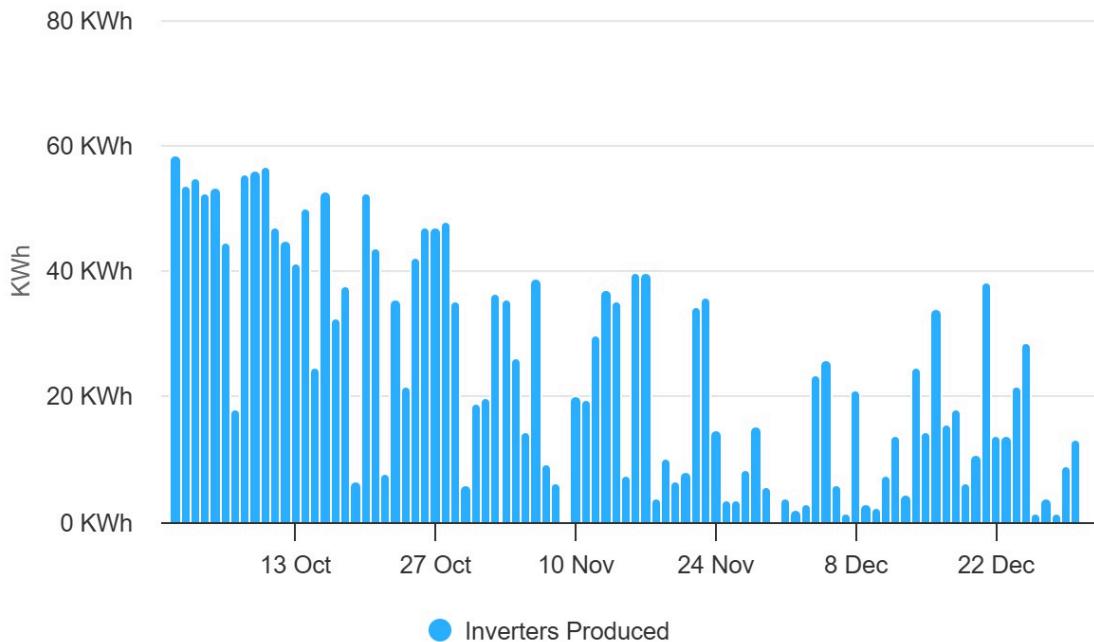
Extreme winter weather can leave you without utilities or other services for long periods of time. Here are a few more tips:

1. Install/test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups.
2. Seal obvious drafts around windows and doors. Closing interior doors and focusing on heating one or two core rooms can help temperatures stay tolerable longer. Keep heavy curtains or thermal blinds closed at night and on very cold days also reduces heat loss.
2. To keep pipes from freezing, keep cabinet doors under sinks open. Also, severe weather can affect tap water so keep several days of safe drinking water on hand.
3. Pay attention to weather reports and warnings. Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
4. Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Do not forget the needs of pets. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights.

## 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](http://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 Tuesday ....Sunday Service Committee ZOOM call at 11:00 AM

Every Tuesday....Meditation @ 6:30 PM

Weekly AA meetings - see document link for times

1<sup>st</sup> Friday.....Book Club @ 2:00 PM

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday.....Knit Wits @ 11:30 AM

2nd Saturday.....Social Action Saturday @ 11AM-1PM always check FYI for current schedule

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday.....Meditation @ 5:30 PM until December

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday.....Film Club @ 1:00 PM

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.....Men's Group @ 5:30 PM

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday.....Together Women Rise @ Noon meetings January-March)

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday .....LGBTQ 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

4<sup>th</sup> 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



## WEBSITE NEWS

Be sure to take time to check out all of the events on our website. Go to; [www.uutoledo.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:office.manager@uutoledo.org),

Bookkeeper email: [bookkeeper@uutoledo.org](mailto:bookkeeper@uutoledo.org),

Minister email: [minister@uutoledo.org](mailto: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](mailto: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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