

Chalice News & Notes



NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF TOLEDO

We Put Our Faith Into Action!

February 2012

From Reverend Beth



Reverend Beth Marshall
Senior Minister

You may have noticed that worship this year is being shaped in part by monthly themes. In an effort to explore a wider range of themes and ideas, many Unitarian Universalist congregations have begun embrace a three-year cycle of worship themes. Unitarian Universalist ministers are not bound to a lectionary, but freely choose themes and readings based on our interpretations of the congregation's needs.

All Souls, Unitarian in Tulsa, OK was one of the pioneers in this effort. Their goal was that in the course of a three-year cycle of topics, the congregation would find more in-depth opportunities to explore key theological questions and strengthen their theologies, well-rooted in Unitarian 'Universalism.

Congregations following Tulsa's lead are adapting Tulsa's original list for their own needs. Our own three-year grid echoes one developed by the Mount Vernon church in Virginia, which drew upon Tulsa's. These worship themes are guidelines, shaping the planning of music and celebrations. Essentially, we're looking at one sermon a month *directly on topic*, maybe two, with other services touching on the topic at least peripherally. In time, we're hoping to coordinate some of the other programs within the church as well.

Thus far, the response has been very positive. Upcoming themes this spring include: Faith, Wholeness, Imagination and Memory.

Growing in peace,

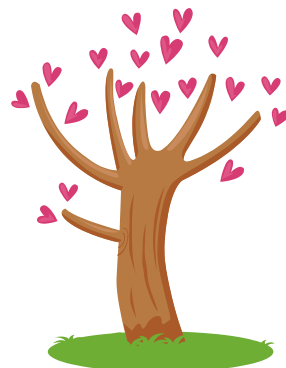
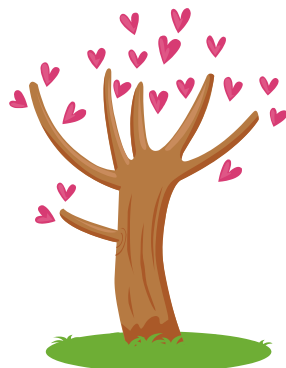
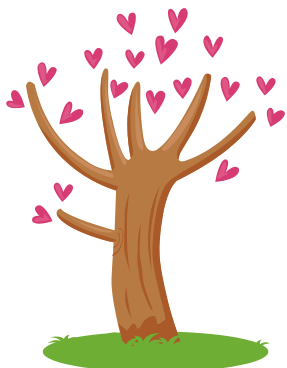
Reverend Beth

Special points of interest:

- FROM REVEREND BETH - SEE PAGE 1
- UPCOMING SUNDAYS - SEE PAGE 3

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Chalice News & Notes



Heather Dinklage
Director of Religious
Education

From DRE Heather

Last month I explained numbers 10 and 9—that studies show people who are religious are physically and mentally healthier—of my top 10 reasons to bring children to church. Here are 8 and 7:

8. The unique brand of acceptance in Unitarian Universalist congregations gives children a safe place to explore who they are. *When the children and youth are here, they know that they can freely work on figuring out who they are. No one will make a nasty comment if a boy wears a pink shirt. Teenagers don't get the stink eye if they have a crazy hairdo. Children of all ability levels are welcomed and celebrated. Sexual minority youth are given a safe haven from an oppressive world.*

7. The Seven Principles give our family a framework for thinking through life's moral and ethical dilemmas. *During my son's "Why?" years, I found myself thinking that people who are Biblical literalists have it easy in answering the endless queries of "Why?" Why is nature the way it is? Because God made it that way. Why is it wrong to take other's things? Because the Bible says so. Since UUs look to many texts as sacred, UU parents have to come up with different answers, usually right on the spot. The Seven Principles gives all UUs, kids and adults alike, a way to frame their thought processes. I feel assured that my child's RE leaders are re-iterating the same principles I'm teaching at home, and they're helping my son think through issues in ways I wouldn't have otherwise thought about.*

Before I sign off, I want to let you know that I love working here. Please note, however, that I am only in the office on Sundays, Mondays, and Thursdays, and be patient with my email response time. If your matter is urgent, ask the office to get a hold of me. Thank you for the privilege of working with you and your children and youth.

See you Sunday!
Heather Dinklage, DRE

Lifespan Faith Development—A Look Ahead

RE Shout-Outs

Thank you to *Jackie Bartels* for sewing up a leaky bean bag and to *Shelly Hopson* for some maintenance work on the Christmas Pageant costumes. A huge thanks to *Abi Hobbs* for helping scrape wallpaper at the wallpaper removal party!

Fixing up the UU Cafe Room

Progress in the UU Cafe room continues. Please consider donating just one hour of your time in the struggle against wallpaper. Materials provided. Email Heather for more information.

RE Visioning Potlucks

Heather will be hosting evening (6-8 p.m.) potlucks about the purpose, nature, scope, and direction of the RE program. Everyone invited, not just parents of children and youth. Childcare provided during the discussion. (Sign up the Sunday prior—see the RE Bulletin Board or email Heather.) **Dates:** February 22 (Wednesday), 6-8 p.m. March 15 (Thursday), 6-8 p.m. April 20 (Friday), 6-8 p.m. May 18 (Monday), 6-8 p.m.

Upcoming Sundays

February 5

SERMON: *Leaping in Faith*—led by Reverend Beth Marshall

What is that leads us to believe or accept something without evidence, something seemingly unprovable or intangible? Is it faith? What sort of definition of the term "faith" is useful in the context of a diverse Unitarian Universalist congregation?

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT:

Adults and Youth

10 a.m. *Be Free Where You Are: Compassion*—led by Karen Christie. Fellowship Hall

The 10 a.m. February Adult Education classes will be based on the talks of Thich Nhat Hanh to inmates at the Maryland Correctional Institution, advising them of ways to find freedom, compassion, gratitude, and effective handling of strong emotions even while incarcerated. Meditation practices help us to calm our bodies, clear our minds, resolve personal difficulties, and generate peace and happiness. If those prisoners can do it, so can we!

Children

9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.—Nursery Open

10 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 7-9: *Coming of Age*, led by Aaron Myers and Arun Nadarajah

10 a.m. K-8: *UU Café*, led by Carrie Baum and Melanie Christiansen

11 a.m. K-3: *We Are Loved, Flaws and All*, led by Honnie Staples and TBA
4-6: *All Ages Offer Gifts*, led by Ann Strickler and TBA

MUSIC NOTES: This morning's service music underscores the monthly service theme of faith. The Chalice Choir's anthem, Mark Hayes' "Credo," speaks direct to the theme while Mark Robert's prelude, "Passacaglia," and Gerald Peterson's postlude, "Recessionale," show contemporary composers dealing with traditional forms in a way analogous to the evolution of faith over time.

MEETINGS: **9 a.m. Membership Committee Meeting.**
12:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal



Bob Rudolph
Chaplain



Gladys Rudolph
Music Director



Chalice News & Notes

Upcoming Sundays—cont.

February 12

SERVICE: *What's Love Got to Do with It?*—led by Reverend Mary Grigolia

Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke of Love as the power great enough to transform the hatred and despair that come from injustice and violence. What is Love? How does Love fit into UU'ism? What does Love have to do with how we respond to the issues of our time?

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT:

Adults and Youth

10 a.m. *Be Free Where You Are: Gratitude*—led by Karen Porter
(Details under February 5.)

Children

9:50 a.m.-12:15 p.m.—Nursery Open

10 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 7-9: *Coming of Age*—led by Anna Putnam and Lexi Staples

10 a.m. K-8: *UU Café: UU Kids Care Club*, led by Lisa Strawbridge

11 a.m. Preschool: *A Tour of the Church*, led by Tiffani Swartzfager and Gretchen Watson

K-3: *Love Is Eternal*, led by Kelly Schaefer and Honnie Staples

4-6: *Let's Talk*, led by Patt Church and TBA

MUSIC NOTES: This morning's service music supports the sermon's focus on Martin Luther King's civil rights work. The prelude is an arrangement of a traditional spiritual, "Walk with Me"; the Chalice Choir's anthem, "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness," has a gospel feel that is enhanced by Lesli McCage's clarinet part; and the offertory is Gilbert M. Martin's take on the well-known spiritual, "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen."

MEETINGS: **12:15 p.m. Exploration Series—Part II** (Details under In and Around Our Church)

12:30 p.m. Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting

12:30 p.m. Kitchen Committee Meeting

6:30 p.m. Meditation Group at Lyle's (details under In and Around Our Church)

February 19

SERMON: *Turn*—led by Reverend Beth Marshall

The familiar passage in Ecclesiastes reads: "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." This morning we celebrate and explore the tension between living life fully in the moment and the knowledge that each of us has difficulties and challenges in our lives.

February 2012

Upcoming Sundays—cont.

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT:

Adults and Youth

10 a.m. *Be Free Where You Are: Freedom*—led by Nancy Roffey
(Details under February 5.)

Children

9:50 a.m.-12:15 p.m.—Nursery Open

10 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 7-9: *Coming of Age*—led by Aaron Myers and Arun Nadarajah

10 a.m. K-8: UU Café: led by the Youth Group

11 a.m. K-3: *Give Love*, led by Honnie Staples and Kelly Schaefer
4-6: *Eyes on the Prize*, led by Ann Strickler and Patt Church

MUSIC NOTES: This morning's service music is energetic and rhythmic. The service begins with the throbbing pulse of a South African Freedom Song, "Siyahamba," and the Chalice Choir's anthem is contemporary UU composer Jason Shelton's "Standing on the Side of Love."

MEETINGS: **12:15 p.m. Exploration Series—Part II** (Details under In and Around Our Church)

12:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

12:30 p.m. Social Justice Board Meeting.

February 26

SERMON: *Compassion Sunday*—led by Members of the Social Justice Committee

The service will focus on relating our Social Justice programs to our Covenant and Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes.

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT:

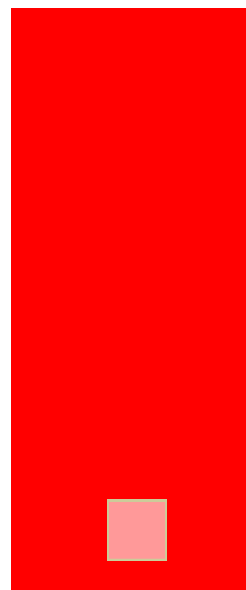
Adults and Youth

10 a.m. *Be Free Where You Are: The Art of Handling a Storm (Managing Strong Emotions)*—led by Ellen Cullman and Lynn Lyle
(Details under February 5.)

Children

9:50 a.m.-12:15 p.m.—Nursery Open

10 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 7-9: *Coming of Age*—led by Lexi Staples and Anna Putnam



Chalice News & Notes

Upcoming Sundays—cont.

10 a.m. K-8: *UU Café*—led by Lisa Strawbridge

11 a.m. K-3: *Love Is Accepting*, led by Honnie Staples and Kelly Schaefer

4-6: *Lean on Me*, led by Ann Strickler and TBA

MUSIC NOTES: So often we procrastinate about our social justice commitments. The Chalice Choir's jazzy anthem, "Take Time," reminds us to be intentional about how we use our time and not to let other concerns rob us of the time for what we want to do.

MEETINGS: **12:15 p.m. Fourth Sunday Potluck—A Mardi Gras Festival**
6:30 p.m. Meditation Group at Lyle's (details under In and Around Our Church)

In and Around Our Church

Meditation Group

Sundays, February 12 and 26, 6:30 p.m., Lyle home. Please join us for silent sitting and walking together on Sundays, February 12 and 26. Meditation helps us to calm and clear our minds, providing benefits to both physical and emotional health.

Sunday, February 26, 6 p.m., Lyle home. Join us to hear the reading of the Five Mindfulness Trainings, guidelines for living a contented and productive life, before beginning silence at 6:30. Contact Lynn Lyle for more information.

Exploration Series—Part II

Sunday, February 12 or 19. Join us after the Sunday service on either Sunday for lunch and Part II of a four-part informational series exploring the UU faith, our personal faith journey, our church's heritage, our community, and opportunities for involvement. Open to all but encouraged for visitors, newcomers, and anyone looking to learn more about UUism. Each part is offered twice.

Birthday Bash

Friday, February 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to celebrate the birthdays of our members that occur during the current quarter (January through March). Hosted by our energetic Membership Committee, there will be fun and games for the entire family at no charge and with no reservation required. Games, cupcakes, beverages, fun and friendship will be offered. Please join us!

February Fourth Sunday Potluck: A Mardi Gras Feast!

Sunday, February 26, after the service. What foods do you associate with Mardi Gras? How about Cajun or Creole foods typical in Louisiana? Think gumbo, jambalaya, cornbread, cheese grits, red beans and rice. For dessert? How about beignets or bread pudding with [yes!] bourbon sauce? Come join the feast!

February 2012

In and Around Our Church

Looking Ahead:

Annual Auction—Saturday, March 24

Potlucks—

March 25: Annual Chili Cook-Off.

April 22: Earth Day—Sustainable Vegetarian Dishes from Around the Globe.

May 27: A Bluegrass Breakfast.

A Note to All: Car Keys

On Sundays, please don't leave your car keys in your coat on the coat-rack in the main hallway. Keeping them with you is a prudent move.

Our Faith in Action

Innovations in Social Justice— OMD Workshop

Saturday, February 4, 2012, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., North Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 1574 Franklin Street, Lewis Center, OH. How do congregations pursue social justice goals? Network with other UUs from the OMD. Presenters include the Reverend Nate Walker, a Philadelphia UU minister; Columbus area social justice activists.

Compassion Sunday Service

Sunday, February 26, Compassion Sunday. The service will focus on relating our Social Justice programs to our Covenant and Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes. Come to Fellowship Hall after the service to peruse a number of displays on our Social Justice program.

Green Sanctuary

Sunday, February 12, at 12:30 p.m.—Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting

Sunday, February 26—Next Styrofoam Collection.

MultiFaith Council of Northwest Ohio

Sunday, March 11, 3:30-7 p.m., Franciscan Center, Lourdes University, Eleventh Annual MultiFaith Banquet. Program Theme—"Youth Involvement in the Faith Institution." Includes Erase the Hate Youth Festival.

Early Bird Tickets—

\$20 (adults). Through February 19.

(Youth to age 21—apply for scholarship reduced price of \$5.)

(cont. on next page)

Chalice News & Notes

Our Faith in Action

Late Registration—

\$25 (adults). Through final deadline of March 4.
(Youth to age 21—apply for scholarship reduced price of \$12.)
No tickets at the door.

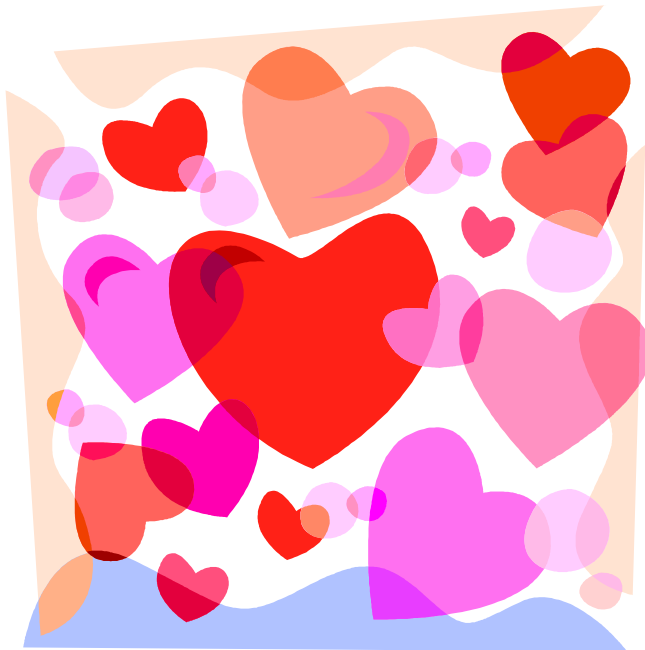
Register online (www.multifaithcouncil.org). On-line payment by PayPal or by credit card or check payable to MFC Banquet, 3009 Gunckel Blvd., Toledo, OH, 43606. Questions to multifaithbanquet@gmail.com or the Trautmans.

Erase the Hate Youth Festival

The Erase the Hate Youth Council is still accepting performance proposals [dance, drama, music, poetry, monologues, etc. 3-5 mins.] for the Youth Festival during the MultiFaith Banquet. Send proposals to Zachary Dehm or Judy Trautman. Stipends of \$50-\$100 for accepted performances. *A great opportunity for UU youth to express your views on erasing hate and promoting respect for all.*

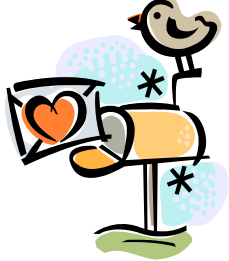
Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee seeks new members. Meetings: 3rd Sunday of each month. Karen Porter, Acting Chair and Green Sanctuary Team Captain.



February 2012

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>"February is merely as long as is needed to pass the time until March." - Dr. J. R. Stockton</p>			1	2	3	4
<p>5 9 a.m. Membership Committee Mtg. 9:50 a.m. Nursery 10 a.m. K-8 UU Café Adult RE Program 11 a.m. Service Children's RE Classes 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour 12:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	6 Office Closed	7 7 p.m. Weavers' Guild 7 p.m. Gathering Rehearsal	8 7 p.m. Board Meeting	9 7:30 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal	10 Office Closed	11 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sit 'n Spin/Knit
<p>12 9:50 a.m. Nursery 10 a.m. K-8 Social Justice Adult RE Programs 11 a.m. Service -Rev. Mary Grigolia Children's RE Classes 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour 12:15 p.m. Exploration Series Part II 12:30 p.m. Kitchen Committee 12:30 p.m. Green Sanctuary Committee 6:30 p.m. Meditation—Lyle's</p>	13 Office Closed	14 7 p.m. Gathering Rehearsal	15 7 p.m. Wednesday Evening Chalice Circle	16 7:30 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal	17 Office Closed 6 p.m. Birthday Bash	18
<p>19 9:50 a.m. Nursery 10 a.m. K-8 UU Café Adult RE Programs 11 a.m. Service Children's RE Classes 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour 12:15 p.m. Exploration Series Part II 12:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:30 p.m. SJ Committee Mtg. Newsletter Deadline</p>	20 Office Closed	21 7 p.m. Gathering Rehearsal	22 6 p.m. RE Visioning Potluck	23 7:30 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal	24 Office Closed	25
<p>26 Styrofoam Collection 9:50 a.m. Nursery 10 a.m. K-8 UU Café Adult RE Programs 11 a.m. Service Children's RE Classes 12:15 p.m. Fourth Sunday Potluck 6:30 p.m. Meditation—Lyle's</p>	27 Office Closed	28 7 p.m. Gathering Rehearsal	29			



We Put Our Faith Into Action!

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF TOLEDO

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

(EST. 1860)

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March Newsletter Deadline:

February 19, 2012
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In the interest of protecting the private information of our church members, all phone numbers and personal e-mails have been removed from the online version of this newsletter. Please refer to the most recent church directory or the weekly UU-FYI e-mail for contact information.

