

## Gateways to Joy, World Interfaith Harmony Week Service, First Unitarian Church, Toledo, OH



The MultiFaith Council of NW Ohio concluded its four registered local observances of World Interfaith Harmony Week with the First Unitarian Church of Toledo Sunday Service, February 7, 2021. The service was led by Judy Lee Nur-un-nisa Trautman, an ordained Cherag to lead Universal Worship, the Chair of the MultiFaith Council, and a member of the church. The theme, "Gateways to Joy", considered how Joy can find us, even in difficult times of pandemic, personal tragedy, and political and social unrest. Service pieces and music reflected diverse faiths. This aligns with the six sources that Unitarian congregations affirm and promote, especially *wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life, Jewish and Christian teachings, and Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions.*

The service was announced in the church UU-FYI sent February 4, 2021, excerpt [here](#). It was also announced in several of the MultiFaith Council e-updates, excerpt [here](#).

Part of the service can be seen on the Toledo Unitarians YouTube Channel [here](#). Unfortunately, a very unexpected and near fatal technical glitch dropped the livestream from Zoom to YouTube. The full sermon has been re-recorded [here](#). A transcript of the Meditation prompt, the sermon, and the interfaith quotes used in the service may be found [here](#).

The Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. TK Barger, and the First Unitarian Church of Toledo have been extremely supportive of the work of the MultiFaith Council. Rev. Barger regularly represents Unitarian Universalism in the monthly Universal Worship services. The congregation includes diverse faith orientations – pagan, humanist, Christian, Jewish, Islamic, and Buddhist. So, on a regular basis the church supports the goals of World Interfaith Harmony Week.

One testimonial to the service is quoted here:

“Good Morning, Judy, thanks so much for the sermon. I just finished watching. It was outstanding!! The subject could not be more appropriate and needed in these times. [...]

Thank you, Judy, for all the good that you do in this world, and may joy be your constant companion.”