



The Threshold

Towson Unitarian
Universalist
Church

A Welcoming Congregation

For Aid and Comfort through All the Relations and Passages of Life and Death

May 27, 2018

ONE SERVICE at 10:30 AM

Rev. Clare Petersberger

This weekend marks the 225th anniversary of the birth of the Unitarian minister and American author, Ralph Waldo Emerson.

On the night Emerson's five-year-old son died of scarlet fever, he wrote four letters to relatives describing his son and began to compose his poem, "Threnody." Richard Higgins writes "Anybody who says that Emerson didn't suffer, that he didn't have an adequate sense of the awful things that happen in life, that he was just a feel-good optimist, simply doesn't know the man. Emerson's optimism is so strong because it was fired in his grief." On this Sunday of Memorial Day weekend we look at the relationship of grief and creativity.

NEWS ABOUT US

We regret to inform you of the death of **Ed Park** on May 13. Ed and Iris were long time members of TUUC who just recently located to Pensacola, Florida.

Ed was born on August 24, 1918, and was looking forward to celebrating his 100th birthday this year. He received a degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master's degree in city planning from Harvard.

Ed and Iris married in 1957 and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last year. They were members of First Unitarian Church of Baltimore before moving to Timonium when The Towson

Unitarian Universalist Church was still located on Bosley Avenue. Their children, David and Mary Anne, attended Sunday School classes at The Towson Unitarian Universalist Church. Ed was a gentleman. His keen intellect enjoyed probing history, religion, culture, and politics. He was a renaissance person and a patron of the arts. And he was a gentle man who took a genuine interest in others. Ed Park will be greatly missed.

Notes of condolence may be sent to:

Iris Park
 985 Legacy Oaks Drive
 Pensacola, Florida 32514-3319

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – NEXT SUNDAY!

**TOWSON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
 SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2018
 11:45 AM**



YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

There are no YRE classes planned for this Sunday. Nursery care will be provided for the one service at 10:30 AM. Classes, which resume on June 3, will wrap up their curricula and prepare for YRE Sunday service to be held on June 10 at 10:30 AM, *Call Down a Blessing*.

The YRE Committee is planning multiage programming for ages 6 through 10 (older children and teens are invited to assist) for

most summer Sundays that will use sessions from the UUA curriculum called "Miracles." Please consider volunteering to teach or assist one or more Sundays and I will be in touch with more information.

Have a wonderful Memorial Day weekend, whether you are hiking, relaxing, gardening, swimming, or getting together with friends or family!

YRE ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SUNDAY, May 20, 2018 11:15 AM (Children/Teachers)

Nursery	K - 1 st	2 nd - 3 rd	4 th - 5 th	6 th - 7 th	7 th - 8 th (OWL)	YRUU	TOTAL CHILDREN
-	2/2	5/2	3/1	3/2	NA	NA	13

OUR GOUCHER STUDENT

For those of you who are new to TUUC, our congregation is helping to sponsor a student at Goucher College. Our agreement specifies that the student come from a country on the “banned” list.

He will be taking one class at Goucher and the rest at CCBC for the summer term. Two wonderful TUUC members have stepped forward to lend him vehicles so he can get back and forth to school. He will be living in the dorm on the Goucher Campus.

We have made a commitment for \$5000 per semester. This summer semester will not cost near as much as the regular school year. So we are hoping to raise \$1000 to help him through this summer. We will resume our regular \$5000 commitment in the fall.

Our student, Parsa Sheikholeslami, is from Iran. He was at Goucher for the fall semester, but, due to health issues, had to take the spring semester off. He is returning for the summer due to visa requirements.

If you would like to make a donation of any amount to help Parsa out, please specify “Goucher Student” when you do so. He has expressed so much gratitude for our support. I hope you will get a chance to meet him this summer. Any questions should be directed to Monica Sweidel at stewardship@towsonuuc.org.

GREETERS

GREETERS NEEDED

"Let us be a house of welcome." Those are words from the closing hymn we sang a few weeks ago. In order to live up to that imperative we need you to help us out by welcoming visitors to our services each week at the Greeters' Table at the front door.

What does it take to be a TUUC greeter? You should be kind, thoughtful, and a good listener...that means anyone in our congregation qualifies! It helps if you remember how uncertain you were when you first came to TUUC or a Unitarian Universalist service, since that will be a connection you have with first time visitors, too.

What are your obligations? It's a convenient and easy way to give service. Arrive 25-30 minutes before the service begins to greet visitors, and stay 20 minutes after the service to reconnect and find out how what visitors thought of the service and how we can further find ways for them to explore TUUC as their spiritual home. You get to pick the dates and service times when you can do this. Each month there's a Doodle poll sent out to the list of greeters. Sign up for the service that fits your schedule.

So could you give us less than an hour once a month or even once every other month? If so let us know at the Greeters' Table that you would like to add your name to our team list or contact Jane Selewach directly.

Please share your smiles, your reasons for coming to TUUC, and your warmth. Let's make sure visitors, new members, and one another know that we are a "house of welcome."



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Every year in June, the Unitarian Universalist Association convenes a General

Assembly to pass resolutions and provide direction on use of UUA resources in matters of social action. There are numerous worship opportunities and workshops on various topics, including church administration, humanism, leadership development, religious exploration, and social justice.

This year, GA will be in Kansas City, Missouri from June 20 until 24. Registration opens on March 1. There is a cost for registration, which is higher if you attend in person. Participation online is possible for a lower fee. More information can be found at <https://www.uua.org/ga>.

Registering early is recommended as the cost goes up closer to the event. If you would like attend in person, the UUA has blocked rooms at local hotels for discounted rates. However, these rooms tend to go quickly; so registering early will ensure housing.

TUUC has been allotted five delegates. Delegates vote in the general sessions on Actions of Immediate Witness, Congregational Study Issues, and Bylaws changes. Although being there in person is best, you can be an off-site delegate and participate remotely via computer. If you are interested in being a delegate for TUUC, please contact Jasmine Faelyn at president@towsonuuc.org.

MUSIC

YOUNG PEOPLE TO SING ON JUNE 10TH!



We're gathering students in the following classes who would like to sing for the YRE Service on

June 10th: 6th & 7th graders, OWL students, and YRUU combined. Please notify Tracy Hall if you think you will sing that day. We will rehearse BEFORE church and YRE on June 3rd at 9:30.

TUUC DRUM CIRCLE ON JUNE 9TH



The TUUC Drum Circle will have its last meeting before summer break on Saturday, June 9th at

7:00 PM. Join us for the fun, the rhythm, and the meditative drumming. Bring a hand drum if you have one.

SOCIAL ACTION

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

June is a month with a 5th Saturday, so TUUC has pledged to provide AT LEAST 60 casseroles to feed the hungry people who come to Our Daily Bread for a warm lunch.

Would YOU please help by signing up to make a casserole, buy a Stouffer's party-size lasagna, or donate \$10 for a casserole to be bought in your name?

We all get busy with warm weather fun, but MANY people need our help to eat. Please bring your casseroles to TUUC **before 8:30 AM on Saturday, June 30.**

Thanks for all you do to make our world a better place!



ADORE (A Dialogue on Race & Ethnicity)

Our next monthly gathering will be on Tuesday, June 5th from 7:30-9:00 in Rooms 1-2. All are welcome.

ACTC (Assistance Center Towson Churches)

ACTC is conducting a matching fund drive during the months of April and May to replace the Finestein Challenge. Note on the memo line "Towson Unitarian Universalist Church." For more information contact Herb Shankroff.

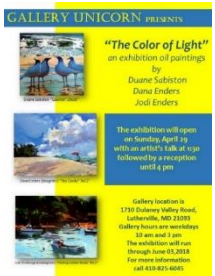
ACTC is running low on dry cereal and canned meat. There is an oversupply of macaroni and cheese and plastic bags. For further information, contact Sue or Herb Shankroff.

NOTICES

AMAZON SMILE

TUUC earned \$66.99 last quarter through the Amazon Smile program!

GALLERY UNICORN



Gallery Unicorn is pleased to host "*The Color of Light*", an exhibition of beautiful, colorful oil paintings by Duane Sabiston, Dana Enders, and Jodi Enders.

A big thank you to George Harrison for helping to hang the current show, to Len Proctor and Michael Magrogan for assistance with the reception, and to Dorothy and Diane Hosmer and Kai for announcements. Gallery hours are weekdays between 10 AM and 3 PM. **The exhibition will run through next Sunday, June 3.**

For more information call 410-825-6045.

SUMMER CHALICE CIRCLE

A summer chalice circle will be offered by Mary Beth Brizzolara. The first meeting will be on June 12, 2018 at 7:30 PM. Please email Mary Beth at marybethbrizz@gmail.com.

USHER ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SUNDAY, May 20, 2018

Date	Time	Adults	Choir	Lounge	Total	Visitors Total
5/20/2018	10:30 am	114	20	-	134	4

ONGOING & UPCOMING

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP POTLUCK

Saturday, May 26 @ 6 PM

Join the Singles Fellowship Group for a potluck with good food and conversation at one of our homes. We offer an atmosphere for fellowship and friendship among TUUC single adults. We range in age from the 60's to 80's, but gladly welcome anyone to join us. Please call Ronald Rowley (church directory) to RSVP and to get more information.

SUNDAY SERVICE

June 3 ONE SERVICE @ 10:30 AM

FLOWER COMMUNION SUNDAY

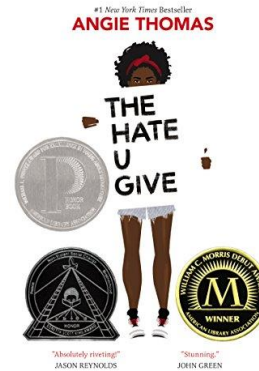
To Give a Blessing is to Say "Yes" to a Person's Belovedness

Rev. Clare Petersberger

The spiritual question for June is, "What does it mean to be a people of blessing?" To answer this question in a way that speaks to theists, atheists, agnostics, and humanists alike, Henri Nouwen defined a blessing as an affirmation of another's Belovedness. He was not alone. Dr. Norbert Capek created the Flower Ceremony for his congregation in Prague as a form of communion in which all could partake. At the end of the formal church year, he invited members to bring a flower, from their garden, symbolic of themselves. At the end of the ceremony, each member took home a flower brought by another. In this way, through this ritual of blessing, the congregation affirmed the belovedness of every person. Today, we will explore the question, "What does it mean to be a people of blessing?" by welcoming new members who have joined us since January and by celebrating Dr. Capek's Flower Ceremony. Please bring a flower

representing yourself. You will take home a flower brought by another.

EVENING BOOK GROUP



Wednesday, June 6 @ 7:30 PM

We'll meet downstairs to discuss *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas (464 pages)). Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, Angie Thomas's searing debut about an ordinary

girl in extraordinary circumstances addresses issues of racism and police violence with intelligence, heart, and unflinching honesty. (The book for July 11 [note change to second Wednesday] is *Housekeeping* by Marilyn Robinson (349 pages)). Newcomers always welcome. Please contact Carel Hedlund (info in directory) if any question.

AGING TOGETHER

Tuesday, June 12, 1 – 2:15 PM

RELIANCE

Who do we depend on these days? Do we include ourselves on this list? And who relies on us? How comfortable and trustworthy are these relationships? We know that aging diminishes our independence and probably our ability to help others. How do we feel about that and have we made provision for the future? What tips can we give each other?

'We rarely pay more than glancing attention to how we will live when we need help until it's too late to do much about it', says Atul Gwande in his book 'Being Mortal'. So let's talk about it.

We welcome visitors, so please join us if this topic appeals to you.

CHAIR: Carol Mason

ETHNIC LUNCH

Wednesday, June 20 @ 12:30 PM

Join us for a taste of delicious Vietnamese cooking at 12:30 on Wednesday, June 20 at Pho Bac (Vietnamese), 7501 Pulaski Hwy, Baltimore, MD 21237. (443) 470-0955. All are welcome, however sign ups to

Ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org by Friday, June 15 are a must so we can be sure to have a large enough table to accommodate the group.

Note: This is our last lunch prior to our summer hiatus. Hope you will be able to join us!

Janet Kuperstein and Liz Van Wye

SUMMER WORSHIP



COMING THIS SUMMER!

The TUUC Lay Worship Associates are gearing up for the summer! This year, we'll explore the idea of CREATING CONNECTIONS! How do we build and strengthen bonds with each other and the wider world? Annual favorites such as Storytelling and Poetry return, and there will be services on the inevitability of change, creative jobs, humility, and much more! From June 17-August 19, come connect with us!

TUUC values the internet privacy of our members, so we do not publish emails or telephone numbers in our newsletter. If you are a member, please consult the online Fellowship One program for those details about a member, or contact the office during weekly hours to obtain the necessary number or email. Thank you for understanding our efforts to safeguard your information.

What's happening at TUUC through May 27 as of 06/10/2018

25-May	Friday	No Events		
26-May	Saturday	Piano Tuning	Meeting Room	6 PM
27-May	Sunday	Sunday Service	Mtg Rm, Lobby & Kitchen	10:30 AM
27-May	Sunday	Children's Choir	Room 5	10:40 AM
27-May	Sunday	Music in the Great Hall	Meeting Rm, Lobby & Rm 7	2 PM
28-May	Monday	CANCELLED – Mindful Meditation	Room 7	7 PM
29-May	Tuesday	Yoga Wellness 4 Life	Lobby	6:45 PM
30-May	Wednesday	Wednesday Writers	Room 6	10:30 AM
30-May	Wednesday	IMPROV	Meeting Room	7 PM
30-May	Wednesday	Al-Anon Meeting	Room 6	7 PM
31-May	Thursday	TUUC Choir Set-up and rehearsals	Meeting Room	5:30 PM
1-June	Friday	Men's Breakfast Meeting	Garden Café at Edenwald	8:30 AM
2-June	Saturday	No Events		
3-June	Sunday	Sunday Service	Mtg. Rm, Lobby & Kitchen	10:30 AM
3-June	Sunday	Congregational Meeting	Meeting Room	12 Noon
4-June	Monday	Gallery Unicorn	Meeting Room	11 AM
5-June	Tuesday	Yoga Wellness 4 Life	Lobby	6:45 PM
5-June	Tuesday	ADORE	Room 1	7:30 PM
6-June	Wednesday	Wednesday Writers	Room 6	10:30 AM
6-June	Wednesday	IMPROV	Meeting Room	7 PM
6-June	Wednesday	Al-Anon	Room 6	7 PM
6-June	Wednesday	Evening Book Group	Lower Level Lounge	7:30 PM
7-June	Thursday	TUUC Choir Set-up and rehearsals	Meeting Room	5:30 PM
7-June	Thursday	Caring Committee	Minister's Office	7:30 PM
8-June	Friday	Maze Group	Room 6	12 Noon
9-June	Saturday	Cockeysville Music Education Center Recitals	Meeting Room	1 PM
9-June	Saturday	Drum Circle	Meeting Room	7 PM
10-June	Sunday	Sunday Service	Mtg. Rm, Lobby & Kitchen	10:30 AM
10-June	Sunday	Music in the Great Hall	Meeting Rm, Lobby & Rm 7	2 PM