

**The
Threshold**

**Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church**

A Welcoming Congregation

UPCOMING SERVICE

SUNDAY SERVICE, NOVEMBER 17, 2019

TWO SERVICES at 9:30 and 11:15 AM

Paying Attention

Rev. Clare L. Petersberger

Lisel Mueller begins one of her poems, "Bertolt Brecht lamented that he lived in an

age when it was almost a crime to talk about trees, because that meant being silent about so much evil." How do we balance the need to talk about both trees AND evil? How do we stay present to what's happening in the world AND cultivate hope?

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Our three younger groups will start out upstairs in the service and then be sung down to join with friends new and old for their class or group.

Kindergarten/First Grade Creating Home: Tango

Today more than ever we recognize that families come in many shapes, sizes and colors. People call "family" those with whom they share certain bonds and actions: caring for each other, accepting each other, and love are basic amongst these bonds. The central story of a penguin chick, Tango, and Roy and Silo, her caring penguin parents, illustrates how these bonds can form a family as tight as one with related bloodlines.

A healthy faith family has these bonds, also. As adults, we choose our faith home. Children do not have as much liberty. Still, they can decide to claim their religious heritage and a faith home. Taking pride in the values and actions of their faith home can help. Our Unitarian Universalist principles put us in a position to not only accept, but to embrace diversity. We can be proud of our religious history toward diversity, while at the same time we work toward making our congregations even more welcoming to all who affirm our principles.

2nd/3rd Grade Moral Tales: Footprints

In today's world, one cannot speak of morality, goodness and justice without considering human impact on the Earth. The Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes promote and affirm both an attitude of respect and actions that honor the interdependent web of life of which we are a part--our seventh principle.

Children will learn about the meaning of the interdependent web of life, and the need to act responsibly. Participants will hear a true story about human attempts to control nature with unexpected (and undesirable) results.

With an emphasis on living in balance and harmony with nature and being mindful — even shrinking — the footprint we humans leave on planet Earth, "Balance" will be added to the Moral Compass poster. Children will learn a fun balance game and make a poster about helping keep life on Earth in balance.

4th-6th Grade Harry and UU: Defense against the Dark Arts

This class will continue to learn about the horcrux of child slavery. In the next few weeks they will meet with a member of Fair Trade team, watch a video to learn about child labor in the chocolate industry, and learn ways to raise awareness in our congregation and encourage noncompliant companies to change. The group will talk about Dementors and how depression and unhappiness are "real world" versions of Dementors and how to combat them.

Our Whole Lives sexuality education (7th-9th)

This group continues to have great discussions about important topics dealing with sexuality, health, and values. At the overnight they discussed relationships and healthy communications in relationships, as well as having fun together. The topic this Sunday is how disabilities affect relationships and intimacy.

YRUU This group meets at 11:15 in Room 7. We appreciate the feedback gained last week in discussion with Andrew Hager week on the current format of Sunday morning experience at TUUC. They are having an overnight this Friday, including meal preparation, games, and circle worship.

NOTICES

IT'S ALMOST AUCTION TIME – SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23!



Are you having fun looking through all the wonderful offerings in the Auction 2019 booklet? The booklet was emailed to members and friends on

November 8 and can also be found on the TUUC website under the Events tab.

If you would like a printed copy, just stop by the Auction table after Sunday services this week. And by the way, we're still welcoming donations and will include them in an addendum to the Auction booklet if you have a last-minute idea.

Another easy way to support the Auction is to buy raffle tickets, which will be sold during coffee hour this Sunday November 17, and at the Auction on November 23. We have some fabulous raffle prizes and you don't have to be present at the Auction to win – although we hope to see you there!

Start planning what delicious food you can bring to the Auction potluck, which starts at 5 pm. If you have donations for the silent auction tables, you can drop them off at church on Sunday November 17, during the week of November 18 between the office hours of 10 am to 3 pm, or on Auction day, Saturday, November 23 between 10 am and 2 pm.

Remember, if you cannot be there on Auction night, but would like to bid on an item, you can email auction@towsonuuc.org to request a “proxy bidder” to bid for you.

The TUUC Auction is fun, food-filled and family-friendly (child care will be provided), and a **very important** fundraising event. Thanks for your support in making it a success! --Your 2019 Auction Team

WOMEN'S LUNCH BUNCH

The Women's Lunch Bunch will meet Monday, November 25, at noon in the Cafe at Edenswald. Please let Sue Shankroff know if you plan to attend.

TUUC TALENT SHOW & CHILI CONTEST, SPONSORED BY THE PROGRAM COUNCIL

Save the date: **Saturday, February 8, 2020, 4 -7 pm**, for our all congregational, family-friendly talent show and chili contest!

Details, including sign-ups to perform, will be announced next month. Mark your calendar!

SOCIAL ACTION

Prologue, a homeless outreach program in Towson. It is open three days week. With winter approaching Prologue would appreciate donations of caps, scarves, mittens and gloves.

Donations may be placed in the ACTC basket in the lounge. Contact: Sue Shankroff

MUSIC

TUUC Drum Circle

Please plan to bring your drum and enjoy the rhythm with friends on Sunday, November 24, between the Sunday morning services.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE



A celebration of life for Barbara Sterne will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 16th. Barbara was a member of TUUC for close to 20 years. She co-

chaired the TUUC Lay Worship Associates; served as Sunday Services Council Chair for a couple of years; taught pottery in our summer community Sundays;

served on the TUUC Caring Committee; and took on the Herculean task of assembling a TUUC cookbook, Food For All Souls, along with Sue Proctor and Laurie Davis. Many of us remember Barbara making heartfelt sales pitches for the cookbook! Barbara moved to CO to be closer to family five years ago. Now her family will be gathering in Barbara's spiritual home to celebrate her life. A reception will follow the service.

ACTC



It's time to start thinking of Thanksgiving. TUUC will again be collecting Thanksgiving baskets for the Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC). A sign up sheet and information is by the Social Action table in the lounge. **Thanksgiving baskets are due at this Sunday, November 17.** Contact: Herb Shankroff.

ACTC THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE

Tuesday, November 19, 7 p.m.

at Ascension Lutheran

Dear Friends,

Please come to this lovely service of Thanksgiving, as all of us from different churches who offer ourselves in service to the poor and the homeless through ACTC come together as one to pray.

Nancy Kraft, pastor of Ascension Lutheran and her church are hosting this year's service at 7 p.m. The address is 7601 York Road, Towson, MD 21204. There is ample parking across the street from the church.

Let's fill the church with gratitude!

Peace,

Linda S. Lotz

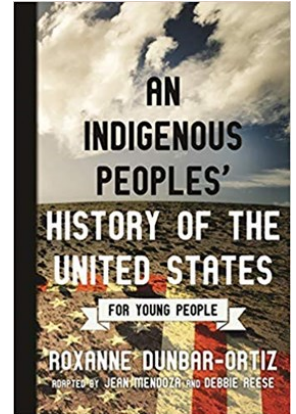
Executive Director

Assistance Center of Towson Churches

COMMON READ

Discussion groups are being planned now for January 2020; these dates will be announced soon. It's time to start reading!

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Beacon Press, 2015), 314 pages (The Baltimore County Public Library has five print editions of this version and one e-reader copy.)



An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz; adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese (Beacon Press, 2019), 280 pages (The Baltimore County Public Library has ten print editions of this version.)

If you are not familiar at all with this history, we suggest that you read the version for young people.

Start reading now!



USHER ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019

Date	Time	Adults/Children	Choir	Lounge	Total	Visitors Total	Nursery
11/10/2019	9:30 AM	42/0	17	5	64	↓	0
11/10/2019	11:15 AM	92/18	18	5	133	17	2

YRE ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019

Nursery	K/1st	2nd/3rd	4th - 6th	7th - 9th	YRUU	TOTAL
2	6	5	6	10	6	35

DENOMINATIONAL MINUTE

At the end of last month, I attended the annual New York State Universalist Convention, which was held at the First Universalist Society in Rochester. A bit of history is in order.

In the early 1800's, Universalism started to grow significantly. By the middle of the 19th century, it was the sixth largest religious denomination in the country and the fastest growing one.

While Unitarianism was gaining adherents among the more educated segments of the population, Universalism was primarily attracting farmers and blue-collar families. Their ministers were often "self-declared" with little or no formal training or education. To deal with this, Universalist churches in New York and Northern New England formed statewide denominational bodies, called "Conventions" for the purposes of training and ordaining ministers and supplying them to the new growing local congregations.

The New York Convention (nyscu.org) was established in 1825, and the Vermont - Quebec Convention in 1833.

Following confederation of the Unitarians and Universalists in 1961, most of these state organizations disappeared. However, the New York body continues as a repository of historical materials and because of a significant endowment, a result of individual bequests and the assets of Universalist churches no longer in existence, makes grants for various purposes to Unitarian Universalist congregations in New York.

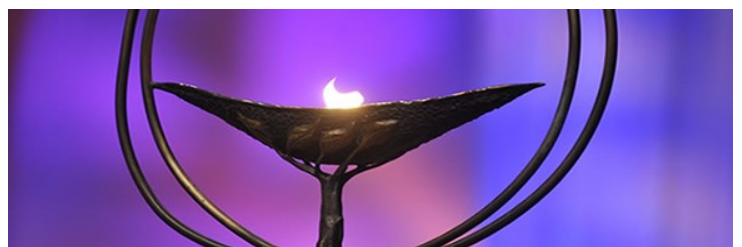
There is a similar body in Vermont, which does the same, but on a much smaller level.

The highlights of this meeting, aside from the business meeting of the Convention, were an address by UUA President Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray, and workshops on GLBTQ issues and one on the Convention's archives.

The inspired keynote address focused on the current activities and state of the UUA.

I have posted a short clip on the TUUC Facebook page. Rev. Susan described the "UU The Vote 2020" a project aimed at getting out the vote in 2020, especially among those voters who are apt to be marginalized or at risk of voter suppression. The UUA is devoting considerable resources to this project including a full time organizer. For more information go to <https://www.uua.org/liberty/electionreform> .

Rev. Frederick-Gray also shared that registration for GA 2020 in Providence RI (June 24-28) opens in November, and for the first time, the registration fee may be paid in installments, with an initial payment of \$50 and the final payment due by February 29. Early bird registration through March 15 is \$400. <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>



ONGOING AND UPCOMING

SUNDAY SERVICE, NOVEMBER 24, 2019

9:30 AND 11:15 AM

What will be your legacy?

Karyn Marsh, Lay Worship Associate

The turning of the seasons always demands our attention, and autumn in particular seems to invite reflection not only upon the past year, but also mortality, perhaps because we know we will all be ancestors someday in the ever turning wheel of life. Yom Kippur, Halloween, Thanksgiving Day, and since 1999, Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20 are just a few examples of cultural attention to death and remembrance at this time of year. In today's service, seminarian and Lay Worship Associate Karyn Marsh will explore the question of collective and individual legacy while leading a ritual of remembrance of our physical and spiritual ancestors and their legacies. Please feel free to bring items to commemorate your loved ones.

NOVEMBER ETHNIC LUNCH FEATURES GREEK CUISINE!

Join us for delicious Greek cuisine at 12:30 PM on Wednesday, November 20, at **Samos Restaurant**, 600 Oldham Street, Baltimore, MD (410-675-5292). Please respond by Friday, November 15. Please note – this restaurant takes **cash only!**

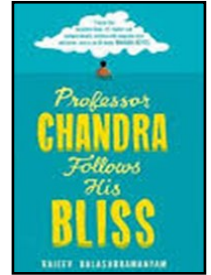
All are welcome; however, sign ups to ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org by Friday, November 15 are a must so we can be sure to have a large enough table to accommodate the group. Hope you will be able to join us!

Janet Kuperstein and Monica Sweidel

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, December 4th 7:30 downstairs
Professor Chandra Follows His Bliss by Rajeev Balasubramanyam (fiction, 2019, 368 pages). Need discussion leader.

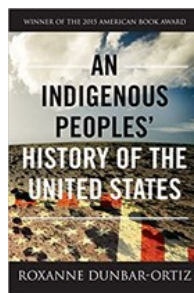
Professor Chandra had worked his entire life to win the Nobel Prize for economics. When he fails to do so, he begins a journey of self-examination.



“Uplifting literature, or up-lit as it’s called by publishers, is dominating the bestseller charts. . . . One of the funniest . . . is *Professor Chandra Follows His Bliss* by Rajeev Balasubramanyam. . . . Beneath the comedy lie serious concerns. Wellness, capitalism, mollycoddled minds intolerant of political difference: Balasubramanyam’s issues are current.” —*The Sunday Times*
All are welcome. Contact Jane Selewach (listed in Breeze) if you have any questions.

Wednesday January 8 7:30 downstairs
An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States (ReVisioning American History) by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (non-fiction, 2015, 312 pages)

This title is the UUA's Common Read.



In 2020, our nation will approach the 400th anniversary of the much-mythologized encounter at Plymouth between colonists and those native to the land, and our own UUA General Assembly 2020, in Providence, RI, will speak to the truths that contradict the mythology. At the same time, movements in response to global and local environmental emergencies, many involving

UUs, are increasingly recognizing the connection between indigenous rights and climate justice. This Common Read invites us to learn the story of trauma and resilience that is the Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States. [source: UUA, with adaptation].

Copies of the book are available through the church office and available for sale on Sunday mornings.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION SESSIONS

Are you interested in deepening your relationship with Towson Unitarian Universalist Church?

The Membership Committee is offering one hour sessions on membership at TUUC, which include a brief discussion of UU theology and history and a light lunch. The sessions start at 12:45 PM.



If you are interested in attending any one of these, please RSVP to membership@towsonuuc.org.

—January 12, 2020

—March 8, 2020

—May 3, 2020

OUR DAILY BREAD

November is a busy month, as we take time to celebrate Thanksgiving and other fun events like the Auction.



It also has 5 Saturdays, so we need to step up and help others. The hungry people in our area so enjoy TUUC's generous spirit as we help provide casseroles for OUR DAILY BREAD. Please sign up to make a casserole, buy a Stouffer's Party Size mac &

cheese or donate \$10 for us to buy one in your name. Casseroles can be made or bought ahead of time and brought to church and stored in the freezer in the Choir Closet. Casseroles are due to TUUC **by 8:30 AM on Saturday, November 30, 2019.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!

The property at TUUC consists of ~ 9 acres of stream, forest, scrub, reforestation area, memorial gardens, picnic and meditation areas, parking lot, paths and a building nearly 50 years old. On average, only 5 people attend and help out with the regular Third Saturday Work Parties that have been running from 9-12 for many years. I need you to help increase that average. Please pledge just a few hours per year to help maintain and improve our spiritual home.



The upcoming dates are:

• November 16



November 29 is the 8th Annual Black Friday Work and Pizza (if enough people RSVP) Party

Adding even one or two of these dates to your calendar would be a tremendous gift. If you just can't make these Saturday mornings but could come at other times throughout the week, please let me know. All work parties are rain or shine with disposable rain gear provided. Tasks for most ages, fitness levels, and skills. Child care may be provided with sufficient notice of need. Please check our Facebook Events page for specific tasks. If you have any questions

please contact Todd Robertson at houseandgrounds@towsonuuc.org.

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP POTLUCK

Sunday, November 24, at 4 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 to RSVP and to get more information. He is listed in the church



directory.

ADORE

New date and time for December meeting!

Sunday, December 8, 1-3 PM

Our December meeting has been rescheduled from Tuesday, December 3 to Sunday, December 8 after services, 1-3 pm.

On Sunday, December 8, representatives from UUJME (Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East) will be joining us to have a circle talk about Palestine/Israel and what UUJME is doing to promote a peaceful and just resolution of the Palestine-Israel conflict, affirming the equality, dignity, freedom and security of all peoples involved. Please plan to join us for a fascinating look at how UUJME supports human rights of all peoples in the Middle East.

BLOOD DRIVE

Working with the American Red Cross, we've scheduled **Saturday, December 14, 2019** for the next TUUC Blood Drive. With December 14th coming up fast, please check your calendar and consider donating blood at our drive. When you see our appointment sign-up sheet in the church lobby, please stop by and select an appointment time between 8:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. (we are starting earlier!) on December 14th. Contact Clare Flynn-Avallone or Nina Della Vecchia if you have any questions. Give the Gift of Life - Give Blood!"



DEDICATE A NEW CHAIR OR NOT!

Now is the perfect time to dedicate a chair or contribute to the fund. We are very close to reaching the goal.

UPDATE: We are only **\$3895** away from placing the order for 200 new chairs.

Early Registration Open!



Adult full-time registration is \$400 through March 15.

NEW! Registration Payment Plan: With a \$50 down-payment, the cost of

registration can be paid over the course several months. Final payment must be received by February 29, 2020. When the final registration is complete, special consideration for dormitory lodging bundles, [financial aid](#) and [volunteer opportunities](#) will become available.

[Register now!](#)

DEDICATE A NEW CHAIR or NOT!

**ONLY 44
MORE
TO GO!**



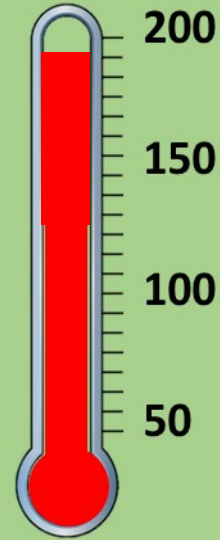
MILLENNIA
BERTOLINI SANCTUARY SEATING PEW STACKER 4015

Chair color subject to change.

**Dedicate a
new chair
or NOT!**

Your contribution at
any amount will help
reach our goal of
200 chairs.

GOAL: 200 chairs



Complete the chair form and return to the office with your contribution.

Dedicated chairs _____ X \$75.00 each = _____

Non-Dedicated chairs _____ X \$65.00 each = _____

Non-Dedicated chair contribution = _____

Check # _____ or CC# _____

Expiration Date: _____ CSI _____

3 digit number on back of card

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Engraved Plaque Dedication located on the back of each chair.

(Includes 2 lines of engraving, limit 30 characters on second line – PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY):

In honor of

_____ or

In memory of

Use backside for more dedications.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC THROUGH NOVEMBER 5, 2019 , AS OF 10/25/2019

Calendar is subject to change. Check the website calendar at www.towsonuuc.org for most current schedule.

Date	Day	Event	Location	Start Time
16-Nov	Saturday	3rd Saturday Work Party	Entire Campus	9 AM
16-Nov	Saturday	Sterne Celebration of Life	Meeting Room, Lounge	1 PM
17-Nov	Sunday	Sunday Services	Meeting Room, Lobby	9:30 & 11:15 AM
18-Nov	Monday	Auction Staging	Rooms 1 & 2	All Day, All Week!
18-Nov	Monday	Handel Choir Rehearsal	Meeting Room, Lounge	6:00 PM
18-Nov	Monday	Mindful Meditation	Room 7	7:00 PM
19-Nov	Tuesday	Sierra Club	Room 6	5:45 PM
19-Nov	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	Room 7	7:30 PM
19-Nov	Tuesday	Women's Reflection Group	Room 4	7:30 PM
20-Nov	Wednesday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	10:00 AM
20-Nov	Wednesday	Wednesday Writers	Room 6	10:30 AM
20-Nov	Wednesday	Voice Lessons	Meeting Room	4:00 PM
20-Nov	Wednesday	IMPROV	Meeting Room	7:00 PM
20-Nov	Wednesday	Al-Anon Meeting	Room 6	7:00 PM
20-Nov	Wednesday	Board Meeting	Rooms 1 & 2	7:30 PM
21-Nov	Thursday	Choir Set-ups, Rehearsals	Meeting Room	5:00, 6:30, 7:30 PM
23-Nov	Saturday	AUCTION 2019!	Meeting Room, Lobby, Kitchen	5:00 PM - 10:00 PM
24-Nov	Sunday	Sunday Services	Meeting Room, Lobby	9:30 & 11:15 AM
24-Nov	Sunday	Drum Circle	Meeting Room	10:40 AM
24-Nov	Sunday	Gallery Unicorn Take-down	Meeting Room	12:30 PM
25-Nov	Monday	Holiday Decorations	Meeting Room	10:00 AM
25-Nov	Monday	CHADD	Room 7	12:00 PM
25-Nov	Monday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	4:00 PM
25-Nov	Monday	Handel Choir Rehearsal	Meeting Room, Lounge	6:00 PM
25-Nov	Monday	Mindful Meditation	Room 7	7:00 PM
26-Nov	Tuesday	Women's Lunch Bunch	Edenwald	11:45 AM
26-Nov	Tuesday	Soul Matters	Room 7	7:30 PM
27-Nov	Wednesday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	10:00 AM
27-Nov	Wednesday	Wednesday Writers	Room 6	10:30 AM
27-Nov	Wednesday	Voice Lessons	Meeting Room	4:00 PM
27-Nov	Wednesday	Zen Community	Rooms 1 & 2	6:30 PM
27-Nov	Wednesday	IMPROV	Meeting Room	7:00 PM
27-Nov	Wednesday	Al-Anon Meeting	Room 6	7:00 PM
28-Nov	Thursday	THANKSGIVING DAY	OFFICES CLOSED	All Day



1710 Dulaney Valley Road
Lutherville MD 21093-9705
Phone: 410-825-6045
Email: churchoffice@towsonuuc.org
Website: www.towsonuuc.org
Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 10AM—3PM

Minister

Reverend Clare L. Petersberger
revclare@towsonuuc.org

Leadership

Board of Trustees:

President: Neil Porter (2018-2019)
President-Elect: Sue Royer (2018-2019)
Treasurer: Monica Sweidel (2017-2019)
Secretary: Angela Castillo-Epps (2018-2020)

Trustees-at-Large:

Karyn Marsh (2018-2020)
Art Starr (2018-2020)
John Mattingly (2017-2019)
Luke Williams (2017-2019)

Administrative Team

Head of Staff: Rev. Clare Petersberger
Finance: Joseph Tumbler
House and Grounds: Todd Robertson
Church Administrator: Kai Aiyetoro

Program Committee

Convener: Sue Royer
Communications: Patty Berry

Ministerial Intern

Lora Powell-Haney
lpowellhaney@meadville.edu

Staff

Youth Religious Exploration Director:
Joyce Duncan, Credentialed Religious Educator
tuucdre@towsonuuc.org

Music Director:

Tracy Hall
music@towsonuuc.org

Church Administrator:

Kai Aiyetoro
churchoffice@towsonuuc.org

Administrative Assistant:

Nancy Hannah
assistant@towsonuuc.org

Bookkeeper:

Raly Baltchev
bookkeeper@towsonuuc.org