

**The
Threshold**

**Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church**

A Welcoming Congregation

UPCOMING SERVICE

SUNDAY SERVICE, DECEMBER 1, 2019

ONE SERVICE at 10:30 AM

The Subject Worth Our Attention

Rev. Clare L. Petersberger

and music by Spice Kleinmann

The poet, Mary Oliver, said there was only one subject worth her attention. On this

Sunday following Thanksgiving, as we conclude our exploration of what it means to be a people of attention and turn toward what it means to be a people of awe, we celebrate the one subject Mary Oliver found worth her attention. Perhaps it will be the one subject worth your own attention.

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Youth Religious Exploration classes are on hold until December 8. Please join us for the service at 10:30 am. Nursery care is available at this service. Have a wonderful and safe holiday!



USHER ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Date	Time	Adults/Children	Choir	Lounge	Total	Visitors Total	Nursery
11/24/2019	9:30 AM	23/1	5	6	35	↓	0
11/24/2019	11:15 AM	90/0	9	4	103	15	2

YRE ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Nursery	K/1st	2nd/3rd	4th - 6th	7th - 9th	YRUU	TOTAL
2	3	3	7	8	8	31

NOTICES

TUUC WENT “ALL IN!”

We should all be pleased and feel proud about the great success of our November 23rd Auction. To date, we have raised \$24,200 with opportunities remaining! Check your email for a list of the “Unsold” items or click [here](#) for a completed list as well. Among the hundreds of donations were many fun occasions that will bring our congregation together in theaters and symphony halls, noted destinations around Baltimore City, on trails and waterways, and in each others’ homes throughout the coming year.

The logistics of putting this all together are staggering and I want to thank the 18 other members of the Auction Committee for their tireless and very capable work in planning and executing this wonderfully complicated event.

On behalf of the Auction Committee I want to thank the more than 25 additional volunteers who stepped up in a big way on Auction Day to help with setting-up, serving food and drink, greeting and registering guests, recording bids, bidding proxies, handling logistics, entering data and checking -out.

Thanks to all the attendees for the impressive all-hands-on-deck effort that made short work of the big job of cleaning up and getting TUUC converted back into a church for Sunday.

Thanks to Kai and Nancy, our terrific office staff, for their patience, competence and immediate response to our many requests.

A big “Thank you!” to our Emcee, Spice Kleinmann, for leading our night and to our

three auctioneers: John Barry, Sharyn Rhodes and Rodger Roundy who added to the fun and excitement!

Most of all, let us all be grateful for our beloved TUUC community which was responsible for making the donations, buying the raffle tickets, placing the bids and taking part in the night’s festivities. I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season!

Nina Della Vecchia, Chair

Auction Committee:

Marilyn Maze, Dan Alper,

Samantha Saalfield,

Linda Talley, Neil Porter,

Jane Selewach, Anita Cox,

Nick Troxel, Monica Sweidel, Susan

Woolhiser, Patty Barry, Sue Walker, Karin

Symonds, Tom Harris, Heather Schneider, Tim

Boniface, Nancy Mears and Marie Razulis



MUSIC

Musical Theater Production

This is a message directly from your TUUC Music Director: The last six months have been very challenging for me in a variety of ways, including my health. Therefore, sadly, I've decided we will not be able to present a musical in Spring 2020, as originally planned. I love working with Sharen Camille, who volunteers her time and significant talent as our director, but I normally take on the roles for each show as music director, rehearsal pianist, vocal coach, band preparer, and producer. In spite of how efficient Sharen is, and what great help we've received with sets and costumes and dedicated casts, I simply don't have the stamina this year. I considered hiring a

rehearsal pianist, but in order for it to make enough difference for me, the cost would be significant.

It has been my intention to plan a staged musical every other year. Hopefully we'll return to doing so before long, but at this time, I need to take it easier. We'll still be having great music on Sundays, and we'll do some special music with the choir in the spring. Thanks to all for your understanding!

PLEDGE REMINDER

As the year end approaches, there may be advantages for members to meet their annual pledge to TUUC by directing that the pledge come from a retirement account as part of a required minimum distribution. Talk to your financial advisor to see if this could be of benefit given your financial circumstances.

Thanks to all who are current in fulfilling their pledge to TUUC. It helps us to fulfill our mission to deepen our ethical and spiritual lives together as we work for racial, social, and environmental justice.

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!

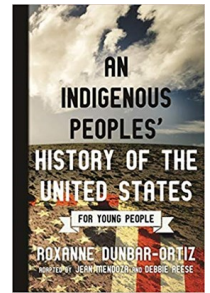


ACTC

Thanks to all who participated in the annual Thanksgiving Basket collection. We delivered 25 baskets and \$390.

TUUC COMMON READ FOR 2019-2020

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Beacon Press, 2015), 314 pages



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

If you are not familiar at all with this history, we suggest that you read the version for young people. The original version is available as an audio book.

We sold out of the books that were ordered and we don't plan to re-order. Please obtain your own copy at the library or from a book seller.

Discussion dates to choose from:

Sunday, Jan 5, 1:30 – 3:00 in the Meeting Room

Wednesday, Jan 8, 7:30 – 9:00 in the Lower Level Open Area (Book Group)

Wednesday, Jan 22, 7:00 - 8:30 in Room 7 (A Dialog on Race and Ethnicity meeting on indigenous lives)

How does TUUC's current Sunday morning schedule work (or not work) for you and your family? We want to hear from you! The Sunday Morning Structure Team will be hosting a series of upcoming listening sessions to gather insight from our members and friends as we continue to refine our Sunday morning experience.

Sunday morning

Please join us for one of the following gatherings:

- Jan 11 - 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (Childcare available; contact Joyce for arrangements.)
- Jan 19 - 12:45 PM - 2:00 PM
- Jan 26 - 12:45 PM - 2:00 PM (Childcare available; contact Joyce for arrangements.)
- Jan 27 - 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
- Feb 16 - 12:45 PM - 2:00 PM
- Feb 23 - 12:45 PM - 2:00 PM
- Feb 24 - 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

LORA POWELL-HANEY, MINISTERIAL INTERN

A recent assignment for one of my seminary classes asked the group to take time to “discern what our guiding values are and then align them into all we do.” Using a list of values (<https://daretolead.brenebrown.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Values.pdf>) from Brene Brown’s book, *Dare to Lead*, we were invited to identify the values that attracted us, the ones we wanted nothing to do with, the values most at risk in the world, and values that shine right now. At each pass through the list, we were to pause and sit with that set of values, to find when and where they resonated.

Our last step was to identify three to five of these values that kept jumping out through the whole exercise and post those somewhere where we could see them everyday. Where did we find those values showing up in our lives? How did we live them, embody them, make choices because these values are central to our being?

As I went through the lesson, I found myself wondering what the result of this same exercise might look on a congregational level. What would the core values of the whole faith community be? And I realized it looks like a mission statement! Think of TUUC’s: “Our Mission is to deepen our ethical and spiritual lives together as we work for racial, social and environmental justice.” Community, Ethics, Nature, and Spirituality explicitly stated, and a number of other values from Brown’s list implied. How do these values then show up in congregational life? How does the congregation embody them? How do the personal values of each person within this faith community interact with the values espoused by the community?

This exercise made me realize I had not examined my values in a long time. I lived with them but did not name them or discern how they showed up in my decision-making. My core values have shifted in these last three years of seminary, a time I have been asked to delve deeply into my own feelings, biases, and assumptions, and to identify their roots.

In this season of awe and wonder (and stress and commercialization), I invite you to use Brene Brown’s list and examine your values. Use them as a compass in all you do and attend to how that feels. What shifts for you? What surprises you?

The three values that kept showing up for me through this lesson? Community, Grace, and Spirituality. All three have shaped my life profoundly and could probably be expressed as one value: Love. I will explore them more deeply as my winter work, exploring the meanings and manifestations of each, but already feel them settling around my shoulders like a warm blanket.

The next piece of the assignment, from Rev. Tandi Rogers, is this: “Imagine saying no to anything that is not connected to those values in order to say a solid, holy, resounding yes to the things that you value.”

I will be over here, attending to awe-filled YES.

DENOMINATIONAL MINUTE

This week's Denominational Minute consists of a number of brief items.

UUA Amplify: The UUA has produced a six page publication which is intended, in the words of UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, to offer "...a list of the many ways your UUA serves congregations and UU communities across our Association. " UUA Amplify contains link to a wide variety of programs and resources available through the UUA.

https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/uua_amplify_catalog_web_may2019.pdf

General Assembly 2020 Registration-

Installment Plan: I test drove this module and it works quite well. There were a few kinks which appear to have been corrected. The full time early bird registration is \$400, with a minimum first installment of \$50 and payments must be completed by February 29.

Greater Baltimore Cluster of UU

Congregations: As reported here earlier, the first virtual meeting of the cluster was held October 23. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 7:30-9:00 PM. We have invited representatives from the UU Maryland Legislative Ministry <https://www.uulmmd.org/> and the Del Marva Cluster of UU Congregations <https://www.uua.org/location/delmarva-cluster-cer> to inform us of their activities. Also, we will be discussing a possible workshop of the cluster to be held February 29 at the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore. For more information, or if you wish to participate in the meeting, please let me know.

Worship Web App is Available: As described

here earlier, Worship Web <https://www.uua.org/worship> "...provides meaningful, inspiring resources for Unitarian Universalist (UU) worship services and personal spiritual practice.

Our search system will help you find prayers, stories, images, music, and lots of other inspiring material. Now you can download the Worship Web app to any Apple or Android device, or to your computer browser. I have found it easy to use and full of interesting and worthwhile worship service material.

What's Next for the Denominational Minute?

There are a number of possibilities, but I would appreciate hearing your thoughts. What topic or topics would you be interesting in reading about? Would you like more information on UU Governance, or is some piece of UU History of interest. Please let me know finnerstephen@gmail.com And thanks.

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!](#)

ONGOING AND UPCOMING

SUNDAY SERVICE, DECEMBER 8, 2019
TWO SERVICES AT 9:30 AND 11:15 AM

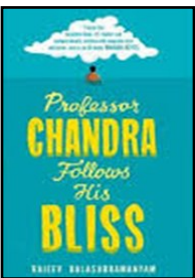
On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous

Rev. Clare L. Petersberger

Ocean Vuong came to this country as a Vietnamese refugee who did not speak English until he was eleven. He went on to write a novel entitled "On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous" and a collection of poems entitled "Night Sky With Exit Wounds." He recently won a MacArthur "Genius Grant." Ocean Vuong believes "one of the most perennial powers of an artistic mind is awe and wonder before the world." Today, Ocean Vuong's story will guide us as we explore the question, "What does it mean to be a people of awe?"

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 , 2020
7:30 Lower Level Lobby
An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States (Previsioning 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].

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.



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



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.

GREEN SANCTUARY

The Green Sanctuary Committee will meet on Sunday December 1st at 11:40 (after the single service) in the open area downstairs. All are welcome.



BOOK NOOK

The next Book Nook will be held next Sunday, December 8.

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!

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the chair fund. We only need a few more dedications or contributions to make our goal of 200 chairs. Now is the perfect time to make your contribute to the fund.

UPDATE: We are only **\$1896** away from placing the order for 200 new chairs.



DEDICATE A NEW CHAIR or NOT!



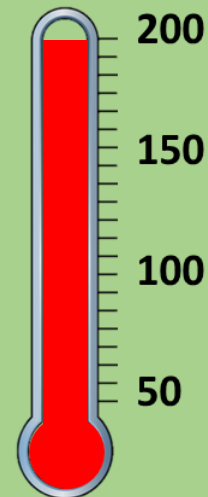
MILLENNIA
BERTOLINI SANCTUARY SEATING PEW STACKER 4015

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



Forms available in the lobby.

Towson Unitarian Universalist Church

Social Action Holiday Giving

You are invited to experience the joy of giving this holiday season by gifting through our community partners. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! **Select and mark-off a gift from the sign-up sheet on the church lobby counter next to the Holiday Tree or contact Sheila Malenski. Place all gift cards, checks, and cash in the gift box on the counter next to the Holiday Tree and place wrapped gifts in the Earl's Place or ACTC buckets under the coat rack by December 15th.**



Earl's Place is a recovery-based housing program providing long-term (up to two years) housing and supportive services to men experiencing homelessness; 17 men at a time.

Resident Dante's Holiday Wish List

Dante is a 45 year old African American who some of you heard speak at the Opening Doors Dinner. He is currently waiting for an auto mechanic class to begin and in the meantime is willing to help me spread the word about Earl's Place.

UPDATED LIST !

- **2 Levi's (size 42x30)**
- **V-neck T-shirts (size 3x)**
- **Black Hoodies (size 3x)**
- **Black Socks (size 11-13)**

Name: Dante Edwards

Levi's x 2 42, 30	Socks 11-13 black
Thermal top & bottom 2x	Bubble-coat hooded coat 3x Black
Tee's shirts 3x v-neck	
Hoodies 3x black	

Items such as **puzzle books and calendars, socks, and hand warmers** are always appreciated by the 17 men of **Earl's Place** in Baltimore City and the 12 chronically homeless men of **Prospect Place** in Rosedale.

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

Donations may be placed in the ACTC basket or contact: Sue Shankroff.

Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood is a program for young men ages 8 to 18, most live in Baltimore City. The program provides weekly tutoring, monthly speakers and guidance and inspiration for educational and career choices. Mentoring Male Teens offers field trips, both day trips and an annual overnight trip. The program was established in 1996, and the dedicated director and volunteers are committed to exposing and teaching the Kings that they are cared for and believed in. The program became one of TUUC's community partners in 2016. Since then, six to nine volunteers from TUUC execute a lesson every first Saturday of the month, tutoring the young men from 9 am - 12:30 pm in their meeting space at New Shiloh Baptist Church.

www.mentoringmaleteens.org

Our Holiday goal for Mentoring Male Teens is to contribute to their annual trip, which exposes and introduces the Kings to a world outside of their daily life. In 2019, the destination was Memphis, TN which included tours of Lane College, the National Civil Rights Museum, and Beale Street. Please donate by cash or check. Checks should be payable to TUUC with MMTH in the memo line. \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100.



The Kings

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

Date	Day	Event	Location	Start Time
28-Nov	Thursday	THANKSGIVING DAY	OFFICES CLOSED	All Day
29-Nov	Friday	HOLIDAY	OFFICES CLOSED	All Day
30-Nov	Saturday	HOLIDAY DECORATIONS	Meeting Room	10:00 AM
1-Dec	Sunday	Sunday Service	Meeting Room	10:30 AM
1-Dec	Sunday	Green Sanctuary	Lower Lobby	10:30 AM
2-Dec	Monday	Handel Choir Rehearsal	Meeting Room, Lobby	6:00 PM
2-Dec	Monday	Mindful Meditation	Room 7	7:00 PM
2-Dec	Monday	Post Auction Meeting	Rooms 1 & 2	7:00 PM
3-Dec	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	Room 7	7:30 PM
3-Dec	Tuesday	Women's Reflection Group	Room 4	7:30 PM
4-Dec	Wednesday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	10:00 AM
4-Dec	Wednesday	Wednesday Writers	Room 6	10:30 AM
4-Dec	Wednesday	Voice Lessons	Meeting Room	4:00 PM
4-Dec	Wednesday	IMPROV	Meeting Room	7:00 PM
4-Dec	Wednesday	Al-Anon Meeting	Room 6	7:00 PM
4-Dec	Wednesday	1st Wednesday Book Group	Lower Level Lobby	7:30 PM
5-Dec	Thursday	Choir Set-ups, Rehearsal	Meeting Room	5:00, 6:30, 7:30 PM
6-Dec	Friday	Available Light	Meeting Room	6:30 PM
8-Dec	Sunday	SUNDAY SERVICES	Meeting Room, Lobby	9:30 and 11:15 AM
8-Dec	Sunday	Social Action Committee	Lower Level Lounge	10:30 AM
8-Dec	Sunday	ADORE	Meeting Room, Lobby	1:00 PM
9-Dec	Monday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	4:00 PM
9-Dec	Monday	Handel Choir Rehearsal	Meeting Room, Lobby	6:00 PM
9-Dec	Monday	Mindful Meditation	Room 7	7:00 PM
9-Dec	Monday	Membership Committee	Room 6	7:30 PM
10-Dec	Tuesday	Aging Together	Lobby	1:00 PM
10 Dec	Tuesday	Soul Matters	Room 7	7:30 PM
11-Dec	Wednesday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	10:00 AM
11-Dec	Wednesday	Wednesday Writers	Room 6	10:30 AM
11-Dec	Wednesday	Voice Lessons	Meeting Room	4:00 PM
11-Dec	Wednesday	A-Team Meeting	Minister's Office	6:00 PM
11-Dec	Wednesday	IMPROV	Meeting Room	7:00 PM
11-Dec	Wednesday	Al-Anon Meeting	Room 6	7:00 PM
11-Dec	Wednesday	Program Council Meeting	Lobby	7:30 PM



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 (2019-2020)
President-Elect: Sue Royer (2019-2020)
Treasurer: Monica Sweidel (2019-2021)
Secretary: Angela Castillo-Epps (2018-2020)

Trustees-at-Large:

Karyn Marsh (2018-2020)
Art Starr (2018-2020)
John Mattingly (2017-2019)
Samantha Saalfield (2019-2021)

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