

The Threshold

**Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church**

A Welcoming Congregation

THERE WILL BE ONE SERVICE AT 10:30 AM ON DECEMBER 22 AND DECEMBER 29

UPCOMING SERVICES

**SUNDAY SERVICE, DECEMBER 22, 2019
ONE SERVICE AT 10:30 AM**

**Rev. Clare L. Petersberger, Joyce Duncan,
TUUC Youth Religious Exploration classes,
The TUUC Choir, Lora Powell Haney: *The
Solstice Badger***



Today we celebrate the story of the sun and... no...not the moon...and not the stars. It's a story of loneliness and friendship, light and darkness, the winter solstice and awe. It is a story about us.

**December 24 - 5:30 PM - Rev. Clare
Petersberger, Joyce Duncan, Lora Powell
Haney, Tracy Hall: *Let Every Heart Prepare
Room For Joy***

In this interactive family Christmas Eve Candlelight service we will celebrate

ancient stories of the renewal of faith, the miracle of love, the rebirth of joy, and the dawning of hope!

**December 24 - 7:30 PM - Rev. Clare
Petersberger, Lora Powell Haney, and the
TUUC Choir: *Let Heaven And Nature Sing***
For almost two decades, after passing the light of little candles, we have concluded our Christmas Eve service by singing "Joy To The World!" This year marks the 300th anniversary of the composition of this song. For his inspiration, Isaac Watts turned to Psalm 98 with its invitation to sing a "new song." The ancient stories about joy reveal, in the words of Desmond Tutu, "As we discover more joy, we can face suffering in a way that ennobles rather than embitters. We have hardship without becoming hard. We have heartbreak without being broken." Tonight, we celebrate such joy!

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

All classes and groups will be participating in the single service at 10:30 am this Sunday. Please check the parent email for more details! All classes start in their usual rooms and then proceed to the meeting room to sit with their classes.

We hope to see you at one of the services on December 24.

YRE classes are on hiatus until January 5. Happy holidays!

NOTICES

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 COMMON READ FOR 2019-2020

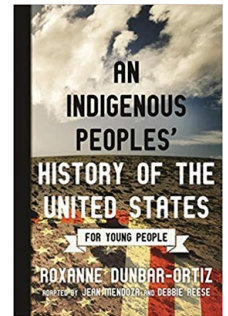
An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz; adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese (Beacon Press, 2019), 280 pages.

Discussion dates to choose from:

1. Sunday, January 5, 1:30-3:00 pm in the Meeting Room; Discussion leaders: Lora Powell-Haney and Rose Green

2. Wednesday, Jan 8, 7:30 – 9:00 in the Lower Level Open Area (Wednesday Evening Book Group), following their usual approach (not using the UUA discussion guide)

3. Wednesday, Jan 22, 7:00-8:30 pm in Room 7 (A Dialog on Race and Ethnicity meeting on indigenous lives); Discussion leader: Kathleen Ramirez



ACTC DONATIONS

Another Sunday another car-load of donations. Food for the Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC) and hats scarves and gloves for Prologue, a homeless shelter. Thank you. In addition to food, ACTC needs plastic grocery bags

SOCIAL ACTION HOLIDAY GIVING

Thank you for generously donating to fulfill **Earl's Place** resident Donte's Holiday Wish List. TUUC put AWE into action! Thank you!

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

We will continue to collect donations through December 29 for the MMTH

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



AMAZON SMILE

TUUC recently received a quarterly donation of \$59.34 thanks to customers shopping at smile.amazon.com. To date, AmazonSmile has donated a total of \$1,077.06 to Towson Unitarian Universalist Church.

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.

A large, handwritten-style text "Sunday morning" is centered over a background image of a green field at sunset. The sky is a mix of blue, orange, and yellow, and the field is lush green.

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

ONGOING AND UPCOMING

WINTER SOLSTICE/YULE CELEBRATION & POTLUCK 4:00 PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Come celebrate the turning of the seasons and the returning of the light with the Roots and Wings Chapter of the Covenant of UU Pagans!

Ritual followed by social gathering and potluck dinner. (Please list your food offerings to help those with food allergies or restrictions.)

For more information, please contact Todd Robertson at rawc@towsonuuc.org.

SUNDAY SERVICE DECEMBER 29, 2019 ONE SERVICE AT 10:30 AM



Enter the new year from a place of peace and readiness. Join ministerial intern **Lora Powell-Haney** for worship and ritual celebrating the healing power of community, music, Earth, Air, Fire, and Water.

This service is appropriate for all ages; the ritual includes moving through stations for each of the elements; options for those who prefer to remain seated will be offered.

Come let the beauty, wonder, and awe of music, movement, and being together create space for growth and renewal in the year to come.

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP POTLUCK TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, AT 6 PM

The group will get a start on ringing in the new year in the church lobby. 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.

GALLERY UNICORN TUUC MEMBERS' SHOW

In the "better late than never" category comes this request for art from the members and friends of TUUC. The annual members' show will be hung on **JANUARY 6, 2020** and run from 1/12/2020 through 2/23/2020. If you or anyone in your family is an artist, I welcome (encourage) you to submit a work or 2 to the show. If you have any questions, want to include something in the show, need encouragement to get your art up on the walls of our church.....please call me (Lisa Lubomski) at 443-869-0508 or email to lisalu1958@gmail.com.

PROGRAM COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the Program Council will be on Wednesday, January 8, at 7:30 in the Lobby All are welcome.

THE EVENING BOOK GROUP

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 7:30 PM

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (non-fiction, 2014, 296 pages)

The UUA's Common Read

2015 Recipient of the American Book Award
In this first history of the United States told from the perspective of indigenous peoples, Dunbar-Ortiz adroitly challenges the founding myth of the United States and shows how policy against the Indigenous peoples was colonialist and designed to seize the territories of the original inhabitants, displacing or eliminating them. Spanning more than four hundred years, this classic

bottom-up peoples' history radically reframes US history and explodes the silences that have haunted our national narrative.

*Please note that the adult version of the book is 296 pages. The actual text of the book is 239 pages followed by 60 pages of acknowledgements, notes, works cited and an index.

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.

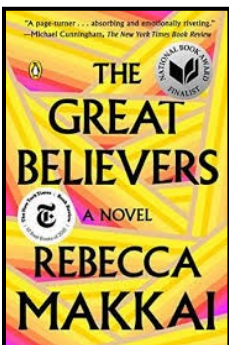
—January 12, 2020

—March 8, 2020

—May 3, 2020

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 7:30 PM

**THE GREAT BELIEVERS BY REBECCA MAKKAI
(FICTION, 2018, 431 PAGES)**



A dazzling novel of friendship and redemption in the face of tragedy and loss set in 1980s Chicago and contemporary Paris, by the acclaimed and award-winning author Rebecca Makkai. In 1985, Yale Tishman, the development director for an art gallery in Chicago, is about to pull off an amazing coup, bringing in an extraordinary collection of 1920s paintings as a gift to the gallery. Yet as

his career begins to flourish, the carnage of the AIDS epidemic grows around him.

The Great Believers has become a critically acclaimed, indelible piece of literature; it was selected as one of the *New York Times* 10 Best Books of the Year, a *Washington Post* Notable Book, a BuzzFeed Book of the Year, a Skimm Reads pick, and a pick for the New York Public Library's Best Books of the year.

All are welcome. Contact Jane Selewach (contact info in the Breeze) if you have any questions.

MUSIC

Upcoming Services

This Sunday, December 22nd (a ONE-service Sunday at 10:30), some of the RE classes will be presenting music and dance, along with an adult women's vocal ensemble and the TUUC Choir (and guess what--a little more banjo, too!). All in the context of a delightful Solstice story about the Sun and Badger becoming friends. A wonderful service, truly for ALL ages.

Holiday Sing-Along

Also on Sunday, December 22nd, we'll have a sing-along time for EVERYONE, after the service, starting around 12:00 Noon. Join us for some of your favorite Christmas, Winter Solstice, and Hanukkah favorites in the Meeting Room! Lasts until around 1:15. No munchies afterward, so either bring a snack, or enjoy something at the after-service coffee hour.

Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve, you'll get to do lots of singing and even some dancing, if you like, at the 5:30 service (oriented towards families and children). We'll also have some special musical instruments,

including harp! At the 7:30 service, the TUUC Choir will sing, and you'll get to sing lots of carols. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season, and that you'll spend lots of time with your TUUC family during the next few weeks!

SUNDAY MORNING STRUCTURE TEAM

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.

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HOLIDAY SING-ALONG
and All the Wonderful Things

December 22, 2019
12:00 noon
TUUC Meeting Room

LGBTQ / TGQNB*
Welcoming Congregations
Five Practices of Welcome Renewal

All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.
For more information, please visit www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming.

*Transgender, Genderqueer, Non-Binary

USHER ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019

Date	Time	Adults/Children	Choir	Lounge	Total	Visitors Total	Nursery
12/15/2019	9:30 AM	22/0	4	1	27	↓	0
12/15/19	11:15 AM	89/16	0	2	107	5	0

DENOMINATIONAL MINUTE

The Greater Baltimore Cluster of Unitarian Universalist Congregation held its second video conference December 4. Five of the eight cluster congregations were in attendance. Also present were the chair and vice-chair of the Delmarva Cluster, which like Baltimore, has eight congregations. They shared with us the history of the Cluster and described its current activities. The Cluster was established in 2009 and was attended by 22 UU's representing the eight congregations. A mission statement was created the following year and a budget and dues were established. Each congregation pays \$200 yearly and the resulting \$1600 is sufficient to cover the cluster's administrative expenses such as conducting the annual meetings. The Cluster also received a Chalice Lighters start up grant of \$20000.

The Delmarva Cluster meets every six weeks alternating between Zoom and in person. When they meet in person, some members meet for dinner. This has helped them to deepen relationships through the years. They hold an annual gathering providing workshops to build leadership capacity. The topics are selected on the basis of a survey of the eight congregations. Discussion followed their presentation and it was agreed for the two clusters to keep in touch and invite representatives of each to meetings of either cluster.

Following this presentation, the cluster discussed possible activities for an initial meeting. It was decided to hold the first face to face meeting of the cluster February 29, 2020 at the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore. The focus of the meeting will be a workshop on "Building a Community of

Communities", which will be presented by Central East Region staff member Paula Cole Jones, who is also a member of All Souls, Unitarian in Washington DC. Details will be forthcoming shortly.

Following lunch and the workshop, there will be a business meeting to start the discussion of what the next steps of the cluster should be with respect to governance, budget, meetings, and programming.

In sharing news of activities at some of the congregations that others might be interested in attending, it was decided to distribute a semi-monthly list of such activities through the cluster email list.

The next video conference meeting of the cluster is on January 7, 2020 at 7:30 PM

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!](#)

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
20-Dec	Friday	Baltimore Vocal Jazz Ensemble	Meeting Room & Lobby	6:00 PM
21-Dec	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	Entire Campus	9:00 AM
21-Dec	Saturday	Harmon Recital—Snow Date	Meeting Room & Lobby	4:00 PM
22-Dec	Sunday	Sunday Service	Meeting Room & Lobby	10:30 AM
22-Dec	Sunday	Holiday Sing-Along	Meeting Room & Lobby	12:00 PM
22-Dec	Sunday	Roots & Wings—Yule	Meeting Room	4:00 PM
23-Dec	Monday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	4:00 PM
23-Dec	Monday	Mindful Meditation	Room 7	7:00 PM
24-Dec	Tuesday	Christmas Eve Service	Meeting Room & Lobby	5:30 PM
24-Dec	Tuesday	Christmas Eve Service	Meeting Room & Lobby	7:30 PM
25-Dec	Wednesday	OFFICE IS CLOSED		
25-Dec	Wednesday	Zen Community	Rooms 1 & 2	6:30 PM
25-Dec	Wednesday	Al-Anon Meeting	Room 6	7:00 PM
26-Dec	Thursday	Choir Rehearsal	Meeting Room	5:00-6:30-7:30 PM
26-Dec	Thursday	Men's Group Meeting	Room 7	7:30 PM
27-Dec	Friday	No Meetings or events		
28-Dec	Saturday	No Meetings or events		
29-Dec	Sunday	Sunday Service	Meeting Room & Lobby	10:30 AM
30-Dec	Monday	Mindful Meditation	Room 7	7:00 PM
31-Dec	Tuesday	Singles Potluck	Lobby, Kitchen	6:00 PM
1-Jan	Wednesday	OFFICE IS CLOSED		10:00 AM
1-Jan	Wednesday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	10:00 AM
1-Jan	Wednesday	Al-Anon Meeting	Room 6	7:00 PM
2-Jan	Thursday	Choir Rehearsal	Meeting Room	5:00-6:30-7:30 PM
2-Jan	Thursday	Caring Ministry	Minister's Office	7:30 PM
3-Jan	Friday	Available Light	Meeting Room & Lobby	6:30 PM
5-Jan	Sunday	Sunday Services	Meeting Room & Lobby	9:30 & 11:15 AM
5-Jan	Sunday	Green Sanctuary	Lower Level Lobby	10:30 AM
5-Jan	Sunday	Sunday Lunch	Lobby	12:30 PM
5-Jan	Sunday	Common Read Discussion	Meeting Room	1:30 PM
6-Jan	Monday	Art Hanging	Meeting Room	10:00 AM
6-Jan	Monday	Handel Choir	Meeting Room & Lobby	6:00 PM
6-Jan	Monday	Mindful Meditation	Room 7	7:00 PM

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND EMERGENCY CLOSURE INFORMATION

In the event that severe weather or other emergencies compromise the safe use of TUUC facilities or property the church may cancel events or close to all activities. If the weather or the condition of the roads cause you to wonder whether we are proceeding with our programming as scheduled, please check for cancellations before you head out.

The Church Office and facilities are closed 9-5 on weekdays if Baltimore County Public Schools are closed.

Additional closure or cancellation information can be found in the following places:

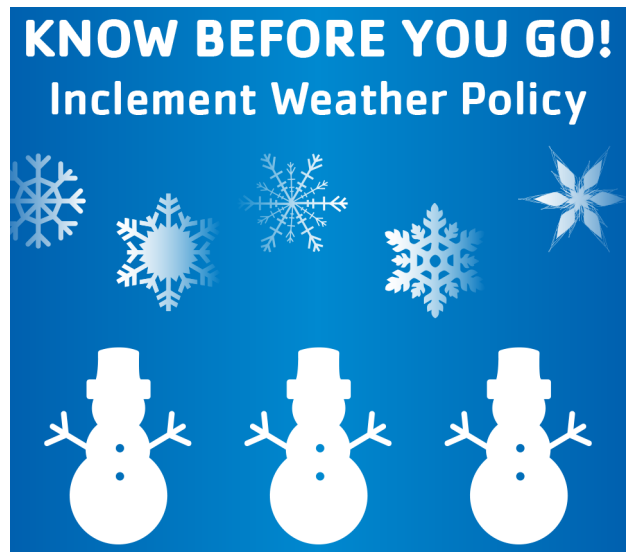
- Outgoing Church Office Voicemail: (410) 825-6045
- <http://www.wbaltv.com/weather/closings>
- TUUC Website: <http://towsonuuc.org/>
- Church Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/51782871068/>
- TUUC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/TowsonUnitarianUniversalistChurch/>
- TUUC Bulletin board/listserv: Request joining bulletin by emailing assistant@towsonuuc.org

When the facility is closed no one is permitted on church grounds without the express permission of the Chairperson of the House and Grounds Council (houseandgrounds@towsonuuc.org)

We will do our utmost to update these sources as early and as quickly as possible. Please check multiple sources and use your best judgement. Event/activity/meeting leaders may choose to cancel events, activities or meetings even when the facility is not closed. For possible cancellations of a specific meeting or event please contact your event leader.

Event/activity/meeting leaders (Committee Chairs, Committee or Meeting Organizers, Board Members, and Staff, Etc.), it is your responsibility to notify your event, activity or meeting participants if you choose to cancel a session. Please also notify the Church Administrator (churchoffice@towsonuuc.org) and the Chairperson of the House and Grounds Council (Houseandgrounds@towsonuuc.org) if you do. It may affect our plans for snow removal.

Please use your best judgement and be safe!





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 (2019-2021)
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 Barry

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