



**The
Threshold**

**Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church**

A Welcoming Congregation

HAPPY NEW YEAR! *What does it mean to be a people of integrity?*

UPCOMING SERVICES

January 5, 2020, 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM
Rev. Clare L. Petersberger: *When I Say It's You I Like....*

The start of a New Year gives us the opportunity to reflect on how we are spending our time. Someone once said, "You rarely have time for everything you want in this life, so you need to make choices. And hopefully your choices can come from a deep sense of who you are." That someone was Fred Rogers. Today we begin our exploration of what it means to be a people of integrity by reflecting on what Mr. Rogers taught and modeled about integrity.

January 12, 2020, 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM -
Rev. Clare L. Petersberger, Nancy Hannah: *Near the Heart and the Life of Our Being*

Sixty years ago, on January 10, 1960, The Towson Unitarian Fellowship held its first worship service at the (then) Women's Club in Towson. Four years later, Leon Branum wrote a poem about this congregation.

He said the church is a home, a place, near the heart and the life of the being of people. Today we ask, "What of TUUC's history is important to remember in order to be a people of integrity?"

January 19, 2020, 9:30 and 11:15 AM
Rev. Clare L. Petersberger: *Family Planning: A Special and Urgent Concern*

In 1966, Planned Parenthood Federation Of America presented The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with the Margaret Sanger Award for his courageous position, in the 1950's, in support of contraception. His position was unusual for Southern preachers of his time. He gave his acceptance speech the title of today's worship service. What might he say about threats to reproductive justice today? And, more importantly, what are we, as a people of integrity, preparing to do about this special and urgent concern?

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: John Murray



Hospitality is the session's focus, with 19th-century Universalist minister John Murray the topic of the central story. Murray's life might have been quite different, had he not been welcomed by Thomas Potter.

The story becomes a vehicle for examining the role and practice of hospitality in our family and faith communities.

Hospitality played a central role in Universalism, which has a faith tradition of universal love. For present day Unitarian Universalists, the challenge to hold in community people from diverse backgrounds with many different theologies asks each of us to practice intentional, thoughtful hospitality in our congregations.

2nd/3rd Grade Moral Tales:

This session introduces the concept of responsibility. It reinforces the ideas in the seventh Unitarian Universalist Principle, respect for the interdependent web of all existence, by demonstrating the idea that our action or lack of action makes a difference in an interdependent world. It encourages the children to feel empowered to take action when love, faith and conscience call. The session is woven around a folk tale from Thailand and Burma, "Not My Problem." In

this story a queen is repeatedly asked to take action on what she considers a matter too small for her attention.

She continues to ignore it until the situation grows to the point that her whole kingdom is lost. Responsibility is added to the Moral Compass.

4th-6th Grade Harry and UU:

This group begins a discussion about the horcrux of hatred and what they will do to help fight this.

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

This group continues to have great discussions about important topics dealing with sexuality, health, and values. The topic this Sunday is gender identity. This group meets at 11 am in Room 6.

YRUU This group meets at 11:15 in Room 7. They will start planning the worship service that they present in February. The discussion theme for this month is Integrity.



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

The graphic features a rainbow flag with a white flame-like symbol in the center, set against a dark purple background. Below the flag, the text is in white and bold, with the phrase "All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome." in italics.

CLARE'S COLLOQUY

When I first visited the Holocaust museum in Washington, DC, shortly after it opened, I was given the photograph of a 16-year-old girl who had perished. I carried her photo with me from floor to floor, past photos of piles of shoes and gold fillings and emaciated bodies in concentration camps. How to make sense of this horror? The museum traced the roots of anti-Semitism (a term coined in the 19th century) back to the Middle Ages and religious antagonism towards Europe's Jews.

I was reminded of this more than a decade ago when I heard Senator Ben Cardin speak in Baltimore about the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe. In Europe? Again?! Sadly, yes. In recent years, France has seen a 75% increase in anti-Semitic acts; Germany a 70% increase; and England a 16% increase. Thirty eight percent of European Jews have considered emigrating from Europe because they do not currently feel safe.

The United States has also seen a rise in anti-Semitic acts---up 21 percent---1,879 incidents in 2018. 2019 will probably exceed these numbers as the recent violence against Jewish people in New York City has reminded us: from a violent rampage in a kosher supermarket in Jersey City to citizens being punched, kicked, and yelled at for their religious identity.

I keep thinking about the sixteen-year-old whose photo I carried through the Holocaust museum. Ellie Wiesel, a survivor of the Holocaust, taught students at Boston University, "For the dead and the living, we must bear witness." Some speculate that this rise in anti-Semitism is being fueled, in part, by the generational distance from the

Holocaust after 75 years. But it is also being fueled by growing extremism, xenophobia, racism, and religious intolerance around the globe.

When he received the Nobel Peace Prize, Ellie Wiesel spoke of speaking to himself as a boy, to the boy who had discovered, "The Kingdom of Night." He said,

"And now the boy is turning to me. 'Tell me,' he asks, 'what have you done with my future, what have you done with your life?' And I tell him that I have tried. That I have tried to keep memory alive, that I have tried to fight those who would forget. Because if we forget, we are guilty, we are accomplices. And then I explain to him how naïve we were, that the world did know and remained silent. And that is why I swore never to be silent whenever wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must – at that moment – become the center of the universe."

As we begin to explore what it means to be a people of integrity, I bear witness to the young woman whose photo I carried through the Holocaust museum and pledge to make the center of the universe any place where people are being persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views. Never again.

NOTICES

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF DICK SCHROEDER



We regret to inform you of the death of Harry Richard Schroeder. Dick was an accomplished pianist and served as an accompanist for TUUC for many years.

For over two decades, Dick was the Music Director at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County. He returned to TUUC as a guest musician on Sunday mornings. He also played at TUUC special events with the jazz group The Silverbacks. One of the last times I saw Dick, he was debarking with his wife Grace from a double decker bus in Edinburgh two years ago. He was an avid traveler! More information about Dick's life may be found here: <https://www.evansfuneralchapel.com/notices/Harry-Schroeder>.

---Rev. Clare

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

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.

SOCIAL ACTION MEETING

The Social Action Committee will meet on Sunday, January 12, shortly after the first Service, in the open area of the lower level. All are welcome. An agenda will be sent to members.

WOMEN'S REFLECTION GROUP

The Women's Reflection Group is welcoming new members; we meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 PM in Room 1 on the lower level. Join us for conversation and friendship. Contact Jane D'Ambrogi for additional information. Our next meeting is on Tuesday January 7.

GREEN SANCTUARY

The Green Sanctuary Committee will hold its monthly meeting on Sunday January 5th between services in the open area downstairs. All are welcome to join us. Contact Carel Hedlund (info in Breeze) if questions.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING

SOUPS ON! JANUARY 5TH



After the second service there will be a variety of soups, salad and desert for lunch.

Perfect to reconnect with friends in the New Year.

Asking for a contribution of \$5

GALLERY UNICORN TUUC MEMBERS' SHOW

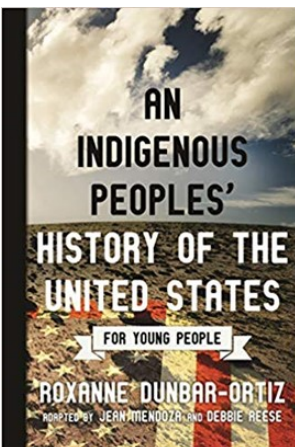
In the "better late than never" category comes this request for art from the members and friends of TUUC. The annual members' show will be hung on **JANUARY 6, 2020** and run from 1/12/2020 through 2/23/2020. If you or anyone in your family is an artist, I welcome (encourage) you to submit a work or 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 lialu1958@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)

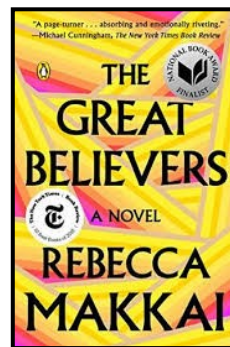
The UUA's Common Read 2015 Recipient of the American Book Award In this first history of the

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.

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*

DENOMINATIONAL MINUTE

UU THE VOTE

Barely three weeks ago we announced our plans for UU the Vote—an ambitious campaign to galvanize and organize Unitarian Universalists nationwide around core issues of electoral justice in 2020. We asked and you delivered. Our goal was to raise \$50,000 in grassroots support by Giving Tuesday to fund the tools and resources needed for our official launch in January, which would be matched dollar-for-dollar by members of the UUA President's Council. Thanks to the tremendous generosity from UUs all around the country, our matching gift drive raised over \$100,000 in crucial startup funding!

This will allow us to mobilize voters, counter voter suppression, leverage our resources in key states, and engage in spiritually grounded, values-based issue conversations with voters in our communities all around the country. We couldn't have gotten this far without committed early adopters like you.

What's next?

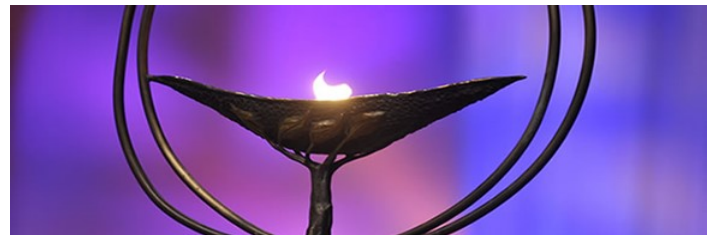
UU congregations and individuals will gather on Sunday afternoon, January 12, 2020 for UU the Vote's official launch event, which will be streamed live starting at 1 pm PT / 2 pm MT / 3 pm CT / 4 pm ET. Find an event near you or host a watch party in your area.

We'll introduce you to organizing tools and spiritual grounding resources the UUA Organizing Strategy Team has put together to support your efforts and let you know about key moments and places coming up in 2020. The stakes couldn't be higher in the 2020 election. Don't wait until January 12, check out our UU the Vote Team Building

Toolkit today so we can all hit the ground running in 2020 at the local, state and national level.

Thank you again for your excitement, your patience, and your direct role in helping to shape this campaign while we do this work together. Together we'll bring our passion to the polls and #VoteLove in 2020.

Interested in or going to GA? There is a GA app available for your cell phone.



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.

3-Jan	Friday	Available Light	Meeting Room & Lobby	6:30 PM
4-Jan	Saturday	Holiday Decorations Removal	Meeting Room	10:0 AM
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	Gallery Unicorn Art Hanging	Meeting Room	10:00 AM
6-Jan	Monday	Handel Choir Rehearsal	Meeting Room & Lobby	6:00 PM
6-Jan	Monday	Mindful Meditation	Room 7	7:00 PM
7-Jan	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	Room 7	7:30 PM
7-Jan	Tuesday	Soul Matters	Room 6	7:30 PM
7-Jan	Tuesday	Women's Reflection Group	Room 4	7:30 PM
8-Jan	Wednesday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	10:00 AM
8-Jan	Wednesday	A-Team Meeting	Minister's Office	6:30 PM
8-Jan	Wednesday	IMPROV	Meeting Room	7:00 PM
8-Jan	Wednesday	Al-Anon Meeting	Room 6	7:00 PM
8-Jan	Wednesday	Program Council Meeting	Lobby	7:30 PM
8-Jan	Wednesday	1st Wednesday Book Group	Lower Level Lobby	7:30 PM
9-Jan	Thursday	Choir Rehearsals	Meeting Room	5:00-6:30-7:30 PM
9-Jan	Thursday	Dragon's Way Qigong	Rooms 1,2,3	6:00 PM
9-Jan	Thursday	Men's Group	Room 7	7:30 PM
11-Jan	Saturday	Zen Community	Meeting Rm, Lobby, Rm 7	9:00 AM
11-Jan	Saturday	Sunday Morning Structure	Room 3	9:15 AM
11-Jan	Saturday	Board Meeting	Rooms 1 & 2	9:30 AM
12-Jan	Sunday	Sunday Service	Meeting Room & Lobby	9:30 AM & 11:15 AM
12-Jan	Sunday	Social Action Committee	Lower Level Lounge	10:30 AM
12-Jan	Sunday	Gallery Unicorn Reception	Meeting Room & Lobby	10:30 AM & 12:15 PM
12-Jan	Sunday	Membership Info Session	Room 6	12:45 PM
13-Jan	Monday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	4:00 PM
13-Jan	Monday	Handel Choir Rehearsal	Meeting Room & Lobby	6:00 PM
13-Jan	Monday	Mindful Meditation	Room 7	7:00 PM
13-Jan	Monday	Membership Committee Mtg	Room 6	7:30 PM
14-Jan	Tuesday	Aging Together	Lobby	1:00 PM

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020!

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:

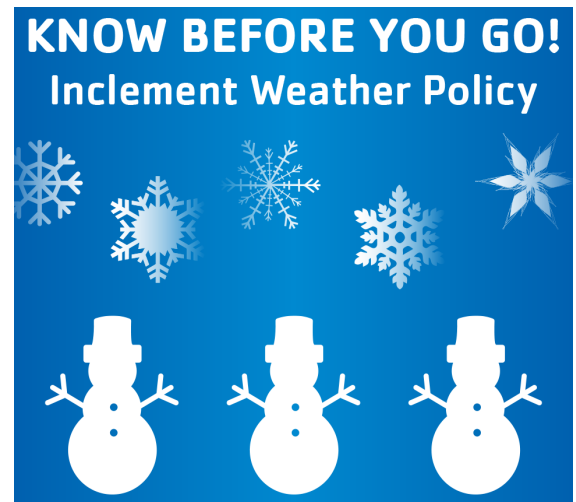
- Outgoing Church Office Voicemail: (410) 825-6045
- <http://www.wbaltv.com/weather/closings>
- TUUC Website: <http://towsonuuc.org/>
- Church Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/51782871068/>
- TUUC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/TowsonUnitarianUniversalistChurch/>
- TUUC Bulletin 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!





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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
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Church Administrator:

Kai Aiyetoro
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Administrative Assistant:

Nancy Hannah
assistant@towsonuuc.org