



**The
Threshold**

**Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church**

A Welcoming Congregation

60 YEARS YOUNG AND COUNTING!

UPCOMING SERVICES

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: Our Worship Home
 This session offers opportunities for participants to explore some elements common to faith home worship. Children will

experiment with artistic and written expression of their own worship experiences. You may decide to incorporate their creations into a congregational worship experience. Most activities can be adapted to your own faith home worship expressions, and all honor the particular stages and places where children are in their lives. Remember that the diversity that brings richness to Unitarian Universalist worship embraces differences in the age as well as the beliefs and experiences of every worshipper. Children are co-creators of our faith homes and the future of our Unitarian Universalist faith. This session introduces a role for them in our worship.

2nd/3rd Grade Moral Tales: Justice for All

This session teaches children about injustice and inequality in our world, and the importance of working for justice. Participants will hear a story about a kingdom in which many people do not have enough food. A dog that is larger-than-life comes to the palace and refuses to stop barking until the king has redistributed the wealth and everyone in the land has been fed. Through an "unfair snack" activity, the children will experience injustice first-hand, and then have the opportunity to turn that injustice into

justice. Participants will be encouraged to be like the dog in the story, acting as allies to anyone who is oppressed, suffering, or being treated unfairly. "Fairness" will be added to the Moral Compass.

4th-6th Grade Harry and UU: Fighting Hatred

This group started discussing the horcrux of hatred last week. This week participants will make scarves to donate to a drop-in shelter that helps teens experiencing homelessness. Many teens are pushed into leaving home because of their sexual orientation.

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

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

YRUU Integrity

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.

TUUC MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION SESSIONS

Interested in deepening your relationship with Towson UU Church?

Come to one hour sessions on membership at TUUC:

- Includes a brief discussion of UU theology and history
- A light lunch
- Sessions start at 12:45 PM
- RSVP to membership@towsonuuc.org
- Upcoming Dates -
 - **January 12, 2020**
 - March 8, 2020
 - May 3, 2020

about
MEMBERSHIP



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.

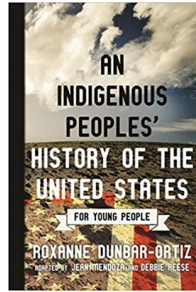
*Transgender, Genderqueer, Non-Binary

NOTICES

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR DAWN MURR will be held at 1 pm on January 18th. We will remember her service to Gallery Unicorn, the TUUC Memorial Garden, and our Caring Committee and her gracious spirit. A reception will follow.

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.



The last discussion date will be:

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 MEETING

The Social Action Committee will meet this 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.

BOOK NOOK

There will be no Book Nook in January, unfortunately, because not enough volunteers are available to staff it. We are looking for more volunteers. Book Nook is generally open once a month and if we have

a sufficient number of volunteers, no one has to help every month. If you would be interested in helping or learning more about it, please contact Tim Boniface or Marian Michel.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

February (!) has a 5th Saturday which means that the TUUC community has pledged to donate AT LEAST 60 casseroles to Our Daily Bread that provides a hot lunch to those in need, 52 weeks a year. Please sign up to make, buy or donate \$10 for a casserole to be purchased in your name. Casseroles need to be brought to TUUC by 8:30am, Saturday, February 29, 2020. Thanks for your generous support, please keep it up.

GALLERY UNICORN

The Gallery Unicorn Annual Member's Show opens on January 12, 2020. Opening receptions are scheduled for January 12th following each service. We are pleased to share work created by our own members and their families, which reveals the creativity and diversity in our midst. Participants include Jeanette Anders, Mary Beth Brizzolara, Anita Cox, Jon Gamsey, Beverly Ginsburg, Jane D'Ambrogi, Dorothy Hosmer, Miriam Hull, Sidney Katz, Gail Ogin, Len Proctor, Bob Pyle, Sue Shankroff, Carolyn Stewart, Hazel Talbott, Christina Tarsell, and Richard Wagner. The show will run through February 23, 2020. Gallery Unicorn is housed within the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1710 Dulaney Valley Road. Lutherville, MD 21093. Gallery hours are M-F from 10:30 am to 3 pm or by appointment. Call 410-825-6045 for more info.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING

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

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.

Please join us for one of the following gatherings:

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

JANUARY ETHNIC LUNCH FEATURES

MEXICAN CUISINE!

Hola! Join us for a Mexican meal at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, January 15 at Echo Frezco, 100 Shawan Rd, Hunt Valley, (410)891-8281.

All are welcome, but please respond by Friday, January 10 to ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org so we can reserve a table large enough to accommodate the group.

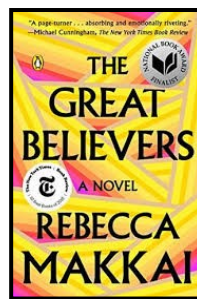
Hope you can join us!

Janet Kuperstein and Claudia Sumler

TUUC BOOK CLUB CHOICES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Wednesday, February 5 @ 7:30 downstairs

The Great Believers by Rebecca Makkai (fiction, 2018, 431 pages)



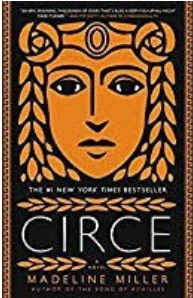
The Great Believers is a page turner...among the first novels to chronicle the AIDS epidemic from its initial outbreak to the present--among the first to convey the terrors and tragedies of the epidemics early years as well as its course and repercussions...An absorbing and emotionally riveting story about what it's like to live during times of crisis-The New York Times Book Review. A striking, emotional journey... Makkai creates a powerful, unforgettable meditation, not on death, but rather on the power and gift of life. This novel will undoubtedly touch the hearts and minds of readers." —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review) Winner of the Stonewall Award and finalist for the Pulitzer prize and the National Book Award.

Wednesday, March 4 @ 7:30 downstairs
Circe by Madeline Miller (fiction, 2018, 400 pages)

In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child -- not powerful like her father, nor viciously alluring like her

mother. Turning to the world of mortals for companionship, she discovers that she does possess power -- the power of witchcraft, which can transform rivals into monsters and menace the gods themselves.

as a hero in her own right." —*Alexandra Alter, New York Times* Named one of the 'Best Books of 2018' by *NPR, The Washington Post, BuzzFeed, People, Time, Amazon, Entertainment Weekly, Bustle, Newsweek, the A.V. Club, Christian Science Monitor, Southern Living, and Refinery 29.*



"Circe,' [is] a bold and subversive retelling of the goddess's story that manages to be both epic and intimate in its scope, recasting the most infamous female figure from the Odyssey

All our welcome. Contact Jane Selewach (listed in Breeze) if you have any questions.

USHER ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2019

Date	Time	Adults/Children	Choir	Lounge	Total	Visitors Total	Nursery
1/5/2020	9:30 AM	26/0	16	2	44	↓	0
1/5/2020	11:15 AM	95/19	17	5	136	14	2

YRE ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020

K/1st	2nd/3rd	4th - 6th	7th - 9th	YRUU	TOTAL
6	7	6	10	9	38

We want to hear from you! How does TUUC's current Sunday morning schedule work (or not work) for you and your family?

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

We want to hear from you!

Please join us for one of the following gatherings:

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

DENOMINATIONAL MINUTE

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

UULM-MD: The UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland is holding its 2020 Legislative Kick-Off tomorrow from 9 AM to 1:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, 333 Dubois Road, Annapolis. There is a continental breakfast at 8:30. The keynote speaker is Delegate Jolene Pena-Melnyk, chairperson of the Legislative Latinx Caucus. More information is at <https://www.uulmmd.org/>

Baltimore Cluster Meeting: The Baltimore Cluster met by teleconference Tuesday, January 7. The primary topic of discussion was planning for the first face-to-face meeting Saturday, February 29 at First Unitarian Church in Baltimore. More details will be forth coming in our next Denominational Minute, January 24.

UU The Vote from the UUA: Join us for the launch of UU the Vote on January 12, 4PM, on line. Gather your friends and fellow congregants and join us for our live-stream webinar national launch by hosting a watch party at your home or congregation. [Register now](#) to participate and receive a copy of the web stream after it streams. More information including the link to the webinar is at

<https://www.uua.org/justice/vote2020>

Join us at Cedar Lane on Sunday, Jan. 19th @ 3 PM for an interfaith service celebrating the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and prophetic legacy.

The service will feature inspiring reflections by Imam Tarek Elgawhary, Imam at the Islamic Community Center of Potomac and

the Rev. Dr. Haywood Robinson, senior pastor at People's Community Baptist Church in Silver Spring, interfaith prayers from Sikh, Hindu, Jewish, and Christian leaders, uplifting music by the Zaynab Ensemble and the People's Church Gospel & Suitland High choirs, and dances by a youth dance group. The service is being sponsored by Montgomery County's Faith Community Advisory Council. We hope you will join us on this day to celebrate and remember Dr. King's life and his deep commitment to justice, equality, and peace, and recommit ourselves to continuing the work of living into his vision of the beloved community.

UU The Vote - Local Conference: Join River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation in GOVOTE2020, a non-partisan campaign to bring voters to the polls on November 3 through letter writing and canvassing. The kickoff for the initiative is January 26 at 12:30 PM at River Road.

For more information and/or to RSVP please contact Christine Ladd at christine.ladd@mac.com or Candy Kessel at ckessel36@gmail.com

Central East Region Webinar on Stewardship- "Money Mythbusters" This all day webinar will take place Saturday, January 25th from 9 AM to 5 PM with a 75 minute lunch break and 15 minute stretch breaks. More information about registration and cost is at [Register Now](#)

What's Next for the Denominational Minute?

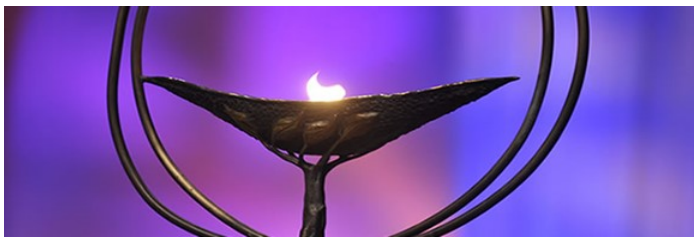
There are a number of possibilities, but I would appreciate hearing your thoughts. What topic or topics would you be interesting in reading about? Would you like more information on UU Governance, or is some

piece of UU History of interest.

I have a request to discuss UU Ministry for Animals <https://uuam.org/wp/> and there has been interest expressed in learning more about Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East

<https://www.uua.org/offices/organizations/uujme> I look forward to your suggestions.

finnerstephen@gmail.com



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!](#)

DONATE BY TEXT

Send an amount to
(410)834-0700

Fund Names:

- 2019-20
- Plate
- ODB
- Charitable
- Hospitality
- General Fund



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

11-Jan	Saturday	Zen Community	Meeting Rm, Lobby, Rm 7	9:00 AM
11-Jan	Saturday	Sunday Morning Structure	Room 3	9:15 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
15-Jan	Wednesday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	10:00 AM
15-Jan	Wednesday	Wednesday Writers	Room 6	10:30 AM
15-Jan	Wednesday	IMPROV	Meeting Room	7:00 PM
15-Jan	Wednesday	Al Anon	Room 6	7:00 PM
15-Jan	Wednesday	Board Meeting	Rooms 1 & 2	7:30 PM
16-Jan	Thursday	Choir rehearsals	Meeting Room	5:00-6:30-7:30 PM
16-Jan	Thursday	Dragon's Way QiGong	Rooms 1,2,3	6:00 PM
18-Jan	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	Entire Campus	9:00 AM
18-Jan	Saturday	Murr Celebration of Life	Meeting Room & Lobby	1:00 PM
18-Jan	Saturday	Briskin Recitals	Meeting Room & Lobby	5:00 PM
19-Jan	Sunday	Sunday Service	Meeting Room & Lobby	9:30 AM & 11:15 AM
19-Jan	Sunday	Sunday Morning Task Force	Room 6	12:45 PM
20-Jan	Monday	CHADD	Room 7	12:00 PM
20-Jan	Monday	Handel Choir	Meeting Room & Lobby	6:00 PM
20-Jan	Monday	Mindful Meditation	Room 7	7:00 PM
21-Jan	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	Room 7	7:30 PM
21-Jan	Tuesday	Women's Reflection Group	Room 1	7:30 PM
22-Jan	Wednesday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	10:00 AM
22-Jan	Wednesday	Wednesday Writers	Room 6	10:30 AM
22-Jan	Wednesday	ADORE	Room 7	6:00 PM
22-Jan	Wednesday	Zen Community	Rooms 1 & 2	6:30 PM
22-Jan	Wednesday	IMPROV	Meeting Room	7:00 PM
22-Jan	Wednesday	Al Anon	Room 6	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:

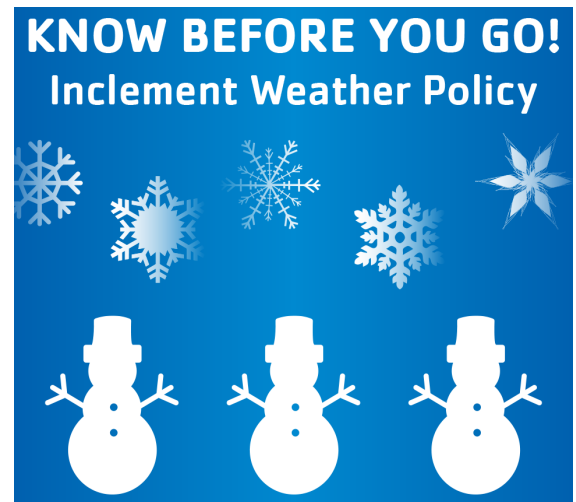
- Outgoing Church Office Voicemail: (410) 825-6045
- <http://www.wbaltv.com/weather/closings>
- TUUC Website: <http://towsonuuc.org/>
- Church Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/51782871068/>
- TUUC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/TowsonUnitarianUniversalistChurch/>
- TUUC Bulletin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