



The Threshold

Towson Unitarian Universalist Church

A Welcoming Congregation

UPCOMING SERVICES

What does it mean to be a people of resilience?

FEBRUARY 16, 2020 9:30 AND 11:15 AM

Two Teachers of Resilience

Rev. Clare L. Petersberger, Monica Sweidel

Two female teachers of resilience were born on February 18th (though not the same year.) One said ““When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.” The other said, “There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal.” Today we reflect on lessons taught by these paragons of resilience. We will also honor Monica Sweidel and her contributions to TUUC before she moves to Virginia.

February 23, 2020 9:30 and 11:15 AM

Resilience

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)

Teens from our vibrant youth group have been thinking about and discussing what

resilience means to them as people coming of age in uncertain times.

Please join them for a participatory service of music, ritual, reflection, and the ever-popular snowball fight! No actual snow is involved. Show up if you want to know what the term "snowball fight" means to this group. This group is advised by Pat Mahoney, Fred Sypher, and Tom Zeller this year.

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

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 World of Wonder: Nature's Partnerships

This session introduces the importance of partnerships in the web of life. A story about partnership between sea anemones and clown fish demonstrates that helping one another is an aspect of interdependence. Children experience the benefits of partnership by working together cooperatively. Participants are introduced to leadership roles they will take on over the course of the program.

2nd/3rd Grade Faithful Journeys: Unconditional Love

This group continues to have great discussions about sexuality, health, and values. This group meets at 11 am in Room 6.

In this session, a story about Hosea Ballou (1771-1852), one of the most influential preachers of Universalism, introduces participants to the first Unitarian Universalist Principle, the inherent worth and dignity of every person. The story, "Muddy Children,"

describes a young Ballou whose father loves him unconditionally despite his tendency to get muddy.

Discussion and activities amplify the story's teaching, reassuring participants that they, like Hosea Ballou, are loved and worthy even when they are literally muddy or have made a mistake. The signpost "Respect Everyone" is added to the Faithful Journeys Path.

4th-6th Grade Harry and UU: Fighting Animal Cruelty

This class starts learning about the horcrux of environmental degradation.

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

This group continues to have great discussions about sexuality, health, and values. This group meets at 11 am in Room 6.

YRUU Integrity

This group meets at 11:15 in Room 7. They have finalized plans for their service on February 23 and will do a run through this Sunday.

The logo for TUUC YRUU is displayed in a dark blue rectangular box. The letters 'TUUC' are in a larger, bold font, with 'T' in red, 'U' in green, 'U' in blue, and 'C' in orange. To the right, 'YRUU' is in a smaller font, with 'Y' in red, 'R' in green, 'U' in blue, and 'U' in orange.

FROM THE BOARD by Sue Royer, President-Elect

* Update on Board resolution supporting proposed legislation and/or public policy *

Details and background information on a Board resolution were published on January 24 (and on January 31). No protests to the policy were received by Neil Porter prior to the 10-day deadline of February 3. The Board's resolution becomes effective as of February 4, 2020:

In support of our Mission and for timely response during legislative sessions, the Board supports legislation proposed by and/or public policy positions taken by the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (state-level) or by Unitarian Universalists

for Social Justice or Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (both at the national-level), if such legislation or public policy position is supported by the appropriate Church committee or group. The Board permits the use of the Church's name in support of such legislation and/or public policy positions. The sponsoring committee will then provide information about the supported legislation to be included in the Threshold. This is effective through the remainder of the current fiscal year, that is, to June 30, 2020.

** end of resolution **

AMONG US



Viola Mae Bloomenshine Teubner, the mother of longtime **TUUC member Donn Teubner-Rhodes**, died in December 2019 in Winfield, Kansas. She was born in 1920 on a farm near Mulvane, Kansas and attended a one room school. Viola graduated from Friends University where she met her late husband Earl Gehon Teubner. After their sons were in secondary school, Viola taught kindergarten for ten years in Wichita, Kansas. Viola and Earl were longtime active

members of University Friends Church in Wichita, and later in life, Viola volunteered at Grace United Methodist Church in Winfield.

She is survived by her son Douglas (Joyce), Winfield KS; son Donn (Louise), Towson, 5 grandchildren including Colin and Susan Teubner-Rhodes who attended RE at TUUC, and 5 great grandchildren including Nathaniel Lewis Earp, recently born to Susan and her husband Damon Earp.

NOTICES

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

PLEASE keep those pledges rolling in!



We are now in our third week of pledging during the Stewardship Campaign and have received \$116,274 in pledges. This translates into approximately 1/3 of the money we need to raise.

Your team captains are eager to lead YOUR TEAM across that 100% "ALL IN" in first place. They are brave and valiant people with hopes and dreams for TUUC. Just like you,

they hope for continued excellence in the services, wide ranging music, and ALL the varied programming we offer here at TUUC. I haven't begun to mention the awesome contribution TUUC makes in Social Action and Green Sanctuary—thanks to our dynamic committees who lead us to think about our community and our world.

Let's be "ALL IN!" Whatever this may mean to you, PLEASE get your pledge in NOW! Any questions ask Anita Cox after services or at stewardship@towsonuuc.org

Anita Cox, Stewardship Chair

EARL'S PLACE provides housing and support services to men who are experiencing homelessness and are in recovery from substance use disorders. Our linen closet is getting a little low. Donations of new or gently used twin size bed sheets or blankets and towels would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to everyone at TUUC for your continued support. Frank is one of our current residents and the youngest. He is taking classes in Microsoft Technology Associate Training and recently secured an internship working part-time in the computer lab at Goodwill. Together we are changing lives. For more information, please visit our website, www.cchbaltimore.org.

GALLERY UNICORN



The Gallery Unicorn Annual Member's Show opened on January 12, 2020. 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.

TUUC TALENT SHOW & CHILI CONTEST

Sponsored by the Program Council

Revised date now confirmed:

Saturday, April 4, 2020 from 4 pm – 7 pm

Save the date for our all congregational, family-friendly talent show and chili contest! Start thinking about your

performance – music, dance, spoken word, improv, comedy, puppets, ... Performers are encouraged to collaborate with others. Small groups and multi-generational groups are encouraged. Details, including how to sign-up to perform, will be announced soon. Free and open to the public.

ADORE

On **Saturday, February 22, at 2:00**, the head of Crazy Horse's family will be speaking at BAIC (Baltimore American Indian Center.) Since the family members were hunted from 1877 into the 1970's, their oral history was kept private. It has only recently been shared publicly. BAIC is at 113 S. Broadway in Baltimore.

On **Wednesday, February 26**, TUUC's own



Morad Eghbal will join us to share his insights on Iran, its conflicts, and its portrayal in the media. Please join us at **7:00 in Room 7** to learn about Iran; Morad will be taking questions

after his talk. [For more information about either event, contact ADORE chair Kathy Ramirez at \[k18alicat@yahoo.com\]\(mailto:k18alicat@yahoo.com\).](#)

MUSIC

TUUC Drum Circle will meet between services on Sunday, February 16, in the Meeting Room. If you have a hand drum or small percussion, please bring it, otherwise just bring yourself!

Youngsters who can focus on the rhythm for a half hour are welcome. We'll start about 10:40 AM.

Join the rhythm!



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.

—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:

Feb 16 - 12:45 PM - 2:00 PM

Feb 23 - 12:45 PM - 2:00 PM

Feb 24 - 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

TUUC SEDER - SAVE THE DATE!



There will be a Seder on Friday, April 10, at TUUC at 6 pm. All are welcome! Additional details will appear in future Thresholds.

YOUR VIGILANCE IS NEEDED

Spam/Phishing/Scam Emails

Some of us received an email this week that appeared to be from someone we knew, Mike Robinson, and appeared to request gift cards for his niece. This was not sent by Mike.

All of us need to be aware that spam and phishing emails are very common. In the past year, there was also an email that appeared to come from our Board President Neil Porter and another that appeared to come from our Minister, Rev. Clare Petersberger. All requested donations - money or gift cards. Do not buy a gift card or send money if you receive such a request. These are not legitimate.

If TUUC is requesting gift cards for our community partners, you will see an announcement in the Threshold and hear about it on Sunday morning.

Characteristics of Spam/Phishing Emails:

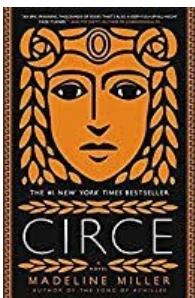
- appear on the surface to come from someone you know and trust
- request money or gift cards, sometimes for a relative or for a cause
- often have a reason why the person is requesting it, e.g. they are traveling or ill and can't take care of this themselves (and they offer to pay you back).

We are generous people and want to respond when someone we know and trust requests help. Learn the signs so that you recognize spam and phishing emails.

Here's an article from the US Federal Trade Commission with helpful information: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams>

ONGOING AND UPCOMING

TUUC BOOK CLUB CHOICE FOR MARCH
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.

"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 as a hero in her own right."—*Alexandra Alter, New 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.

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

See next week's TUUC Threshold for information on the book for April 1, *Sonia Purnell's A Woman of No Importance*

FEBRUARY ETHNIC LUNCH FEATURES INDIAN CUISINE!

Namaste! Join us for an Indian meal at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, February 19 at

THE MINT LEAF, 115
Shawan Rd, Suite 8, Hunt
Valley, (410) 517-3900.
www.themintleaf.us/



All are welcome, but please respond by Friday, February 14 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

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP POTLUCK **Saturday, February 15, at 6 pm.**



Join us for good food and conversation 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.

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.



GREATER BALTIMORE CLUSTER GATHERING

Saturday, February 29, 2020

8:30 am to 3:30 pm EST

Type of event: Conference

Sponsor: Central East Region of the UUA,
The First Unitarian Church of Baltimore,
Baltimore, MD

We are reviving the Greater Baltimore Cluster of Unitarian Universalist Churches. The topic of this meeting is **Building an Inclusive Community**. Communities are essential to our well-being. The Greater Baltimore Cluster gives you/us a chance to expand our sense of community by engaging with people from your neighboring UU congregations. What can we do together to strengthen the UU experience? Would you like to meet people who are involved in worship arts, religious education, adult spiritual development, racial and social justice and more?

Following Paula's presentation, there will be a short business meeting at which we will plan the next steps for the Cluster.

Paula Cole Jones, UUA Regional Staff

Member, will guide us in looking at a new, collaborative way to engage with each other in discussion and decision-making. When we focus on the well-being of Communities, we can develop a more inclusive culture for all. What might it look like for our Principles to be in action, while integrating the 8th Principle of building Beloved Community? Are there more inclusive and healthier ways to engage in democratic process? On February 29th we will explore these questions together.

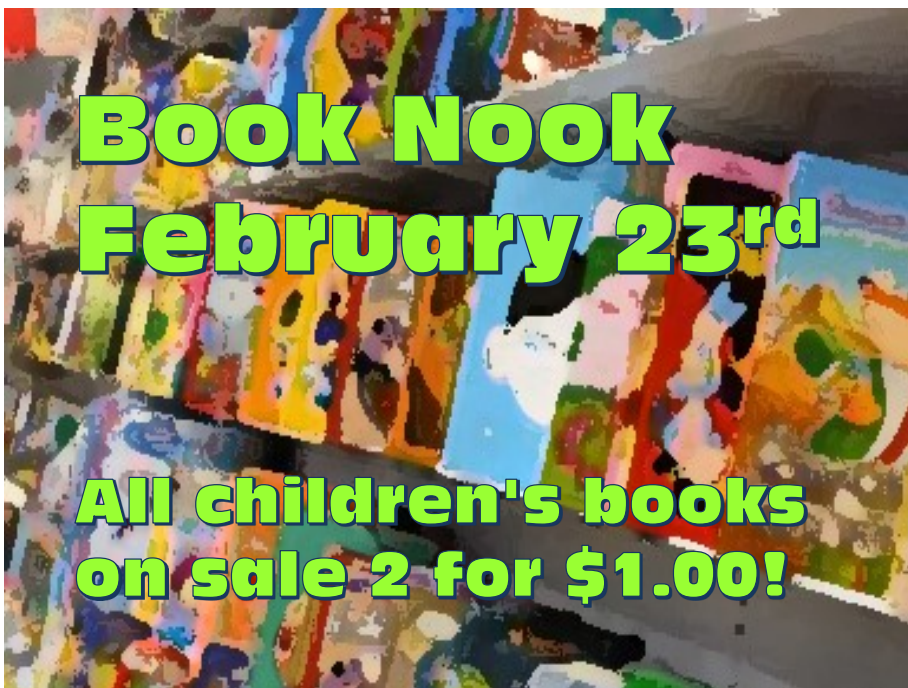
Cost: Registration is \$20 and includes lunch and will be collected at the door.

[Register Now](#)

Registration closes February 27, 2020

Please address any questions concerning this event to finnerstephen@gmail.com or pcolejones@gmail.com.

Address: 1 W. Franklin Street, Baltimore MD 21201 — For more information contact cer@uua.org.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

It may seem like spring is here, but the weather can change at any time.

Check the TUC website front page for possible building closings before you leave for activities.

www.towsonuuc.org



SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE FOR THIS FABULOUS AUCTION EVENT!

Invite your friends to try many tempting wines and hors d'oeuvres, and listen to great vocal music. Contact Marilyn at mazemd@hotmail.com to reserve your spot!

BOUQUETS ON A BUDGET

Join us to sample a selection of wines from around the world, all under \$15/bottle. The evening will feature wines from Europe, Australia/New Zealand, the US, and South Africa, accompanied by a delicious selection of heavy hors d'oeuvres. Settle in to enjoy special a cappella music provided by the Baltimore Vocal Jazz Ensemble and the GQ Women's Quartet.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2020

4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Donation: \$45.00

DONATED BY: RICK BADER, ALTA & JIM HAYWOOD, CAREL HEDLUND AND LEN FASS, PAUL & SUSAN KONKA, MARILYN MAZE & HOLLAND FORD.

**Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church
1710 Dulaney Valley Road
Lutherville, MD 21093
For more info:
www.towsonuuc.org**

DENOMINATIONAL MINUTE

This issue reports on the Unitarian University Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) activities and report and recent lobbying by TUUC members Steve Finner and Kathy Ramirez on two bills supported by the UULM-MD and others.

UULM_MD: This past week saw our first victories with the override of two gubernatorial vetoes, the first approval of a gun violence bill on the House floor, and the introduction of most of our other priority bills. On Thursday, January 30, both houses overrode vetoes by Governor Hogan on important bills passed in 2019:

Gun Violence: SB 1000/HB 1343 Handgun Permit Review Board - Repeal - this bill abolishes the politically appointed board that was routinely overturning decisions by the State Police denying permits to carry handguns. Appeals will instead go to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) which is the nonpolitical agency with Administrative Law Judges who decide appeals of other administrative agency decisions across the Executive Branch.

Immigration: SB 537/HB 262 Dream Act Expansion - the 2012 MD DREAM Act offered in-state tuition rates at public colleges, universities and community colleges to undocumented students (Dreamers) if they graduated from a MD high school; the student then had to attend a community college in the county of her high school; the extension removes the requirement that the student must attend a community college in her high school district and can apply directly to a four-year public college or university paying in-state tuition rates. It also removes

onerous tax proof requirements and protects DACA and TPS students who may lose their in-state status if the Trump Administration cancels these programs.

Also on January 30, the House of Delegates passed House Bill 4 on Second Reader. This bill would include long guns in the requirement for background checks before purchase or transfer of the firearm. The bill will be brought up for Third Reader and final approval in the House before it is sent to the Senate for consideration. Its companion bill, SB 208, had a hearing scheduled in the Judiciary Committee, Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

A number of bills related to UULM-MD's legislative priorities have been introduced and assigned to committees. For a list go to <https://www.uulmmd.org/post/progress-on-uulm-md-priorities>

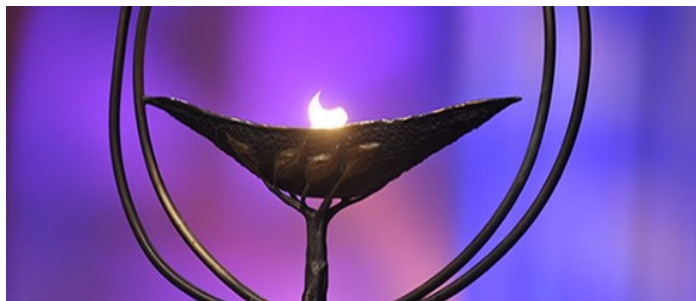
TUUC members Kathy Ramirez and Steve Finner lobbied in Annapolis on January 27 and 28. Kathy reports that members from UULM and several other organizations joined CASA Maryland in Annapolis.

The four main focus points were 1) Over-ride the Veto of the Dream Act Expansion : we won Thursday, 2) HB 677 Dignity not Detention, 3) HB 403 Safe Access for All, 4) HB 388 Privacy Protection, as well as Trust Act and the facial recognition software concerns.

The crowd filled two rooms and overflowed into the hallway. Numerous speakers included a woman whose husband was detained just hours before and political representatives like Shelley Hellerman.

Steve writes: I joined 150 people lobbying in support of HB 643-Medical Aid in Dying. The event was very well organized by Compassion and Choices

(<https://compassionandchoices.org/>), a national organization working to give people with a terminal illness the right to decide how and when they will die.



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!](#)

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 –
 - **March 8, 2020**
 - May 3, 2020

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!

Feb 16 - 12:45 PM - 2:00 PM
 Feb 23 - 12:45 PM - 2:00 PM
 Feb 24 - 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

USHER ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2019

Date	Time	Adults/Children	Choir	Lounge	Total	Visitors Total	Nursery
2/09/2020	9:30 AM	30/3	14	3	50	↓	0
2/09/2020	11:15 AM	85/24	17	6	132	8	5

YRE ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020

K/1st	2nd/3rd	4th - 6th	7th - 9th	YRUU	TOTAL
6	6	10	9	6	37

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

15-Feb	Saturday	Zen Community	Meeting Rm, Lobby, Room 7	9:00 AM
15-Feb	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	Entire Campus	9:00 AM
15-Feb	Saturday	TUUC Singles Potluck	Meeting Rm, Lobby, Kitchen	6:00 PM
16-Feb	Sunday	Sunday Services	Meeting Room & Lobby	9:30 AM & 11:15 AM
16-Feb	Sunday	Drum Circle	Meeting Room	10:40 AM
16-Feb	Sunday	Sunday Morning Task Force	Room 6	12:45 PM
16-Feb	Sunday	Tau Delta Omega	Rooms 1 & 2	4:00 PM
17-Feb	Monday	Handel Choir	Meeting Room & Lobby	6:00 PM
17-Feb	Monday	Mindful Meditation	Room 7	7:00 PM
18-Feb	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	Room 7	7:30 PM
18-Feb	Tuesday	Women's Reflection Group	Room 1	7:30 PM
19-Feb	Wednesday	Wednesday Writers	Room 6	10:30 AM
19-Feb	Wednesday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	10:30 AM
19-Feb	Wednesday	IMPROV	Meeting Room	7:00 PM
19-Feb	Wednesday	Al Anon	Room 6	7:00 PM
19-Feb	Wednesday	Board Meeting	Rooms 1 & 2	7:30 PM
20-Feb	Thursday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	10:30 AM
20-Feb	Thursday	Choir Rehearsals	Meeting Room	5:00, 6:30, 7:30 PM
22-Feb	Saturday	<i>Bouquets on a Budget</i>	Meeting Room & Lobby	4:00 PM
23-Feb	Sunday	Sunday Services	Meeting Room & Lobby	9:30 AM & 11:15 AM
23-Feb	Sunday	Sunday Morning Task Force	Room 6	12:45 PM
24-Feb	Monday	Gallery Unicorn Art Hanging	Meeting Room	10:00 AM
24-Feb	Monday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	4:00 PM
24-Feb	Monday	Handel Choir	Meeting Room & Lobby	6:00 PM
24-Feb	Monday	Drawdown Workshop	Rooms 1, 2, 3	6:00 PM
24-Feb	Monday	Mindful Meditation	Room 7	7:00 PM
24-Feb	Monday	Sunday Morning Task Force	Room 6	7:30 PM
25-Feb	Tuesday	Women's Lunch Bunch	Edenwald	11:45 AM
25-Feb	Tuesday	Soul Matters	Room 7	7:30 PM
26-Feb	Wednesday	Wednesday Writers	Room 6	10:30 AM
26-Feb	Wednesday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	10:30 AM
26-Feb	Wednesday	ADORE	Room 7	6:00 PM
26-Feb	Wednesday	IMPROV	Meeting Room	7:00 PM
26-Feb	Wednesday	Al Anon	Room 6	7:00 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 (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:

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Church Administrator:

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Administrative Assistant:

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