



**The  
Threshold**

**Towson Unitarian  
Universalist Church**

*A Welcoming Congregation*

## What does it mean to be a people of wisdom?

### THIS SUNDAY



**March 22, 2020 10:30 AM**

*A Parable of Lost Sheep*

**Lora Powell-Haney**

How do we uphold our third source: wisdom from the world’s religions, in a world increasingly wrenched apart by religious and ethical difference? Join ministerial intern Lora Powell-Haney in a service that explores interreligious resiliency and the wisdom of open heart and faithful curiosity.

### **TUUC Roots & Wings Pagans: Ostara Ritual Sunday, March 22, 2020 Online Only!**

**4:00-5:15pm Eastern time**

Zoom meeting ID:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/912450947>

**All ages welcome!**

Gather something for an altar cloth, a bowl with water, a dish with seeds of some kind (flower seeds or edible seeds), feather or bubbles, candle. Maybe also add some rabbit shapes cut out of paper, spring flowers, eggs, etc., to add to your altar for Spring. Have a

drum or two handy, or maybe an old cooking pot and a wooden spoon! We’ll cast our circle wide and wider still for this ritual of healing and connection.

The first 5 minutes will be time to gather and orient yourself to the Zoom platform.



## TUUC PROGRAMMING WILL CONTINUE IN VIRTUAL SPACE

In this time of physical distancing, we are seeking to determine the needs and interests of members and friends of our spiritual community. To this end, I invite you to fill out this survey: <https://www.towsonuuc.org/tuuc-community-needs-assessment>

We are intentionally working on creating a "Phone Pal" program for people who would like a daily or weekly check-in with another TUUC member or friend. I hope you will consider volunteering to be a "Phone Pal." If you know of someone who could benefit from this program, please contact me ([revclare@towsonuuc.org](mailto:revclare@towsonuuc.org)) or Carol Horst.

While no one wants to get this virus, it is inevitable that some of us will. Please let me know if/when you are in quarantine.

Lora Powell Haney will be leading brief meditative moments on Zoom at 8:30 a.m. on March 19 and March 20. I am hosting a "Virtual Coffee with the Minister" on March 24 and March 31 at noon and on March 26 and April 2 at 4 p.m. Andrew Hager is launching "Cabin Fever" an on-line movie series beginning with *The Invention of Lying* which is on Netflix with a message board discussion to follow (for more information, please see this week's Threshold.) Lora is hosting an on-line Ostara ritual on March 22 from 4:00-5:15 p.m. to welcome spring. Zoom sign-ins for these programs are on the church calendar.

The survey on our website will guide us as we work to develop more opportunities for emotional and spiritual connections in the days and weeks to come.

Thanks to all who were connected to the 91

devices for our first TUUC virtual worship service on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30! It was meaningful to see each other's faces; share joys and sorrows in the chat box; light the chalice flame of hope together; hear a story about Athena and Poseidon (a youth later excitedly told us more about Poseidon!); sing together (and listen to Tracy sing!); and though we were unable to break out into chat rooms on March 15, we did hear some responses as to where people are finding wisdom in these dizzying days. Special thanks to Kat Palmore, Matt Smith, Marilyn Maze, and Lora Powell Haney for lending their technical expertise which made it possible to go from the decision to close the building on the evening of March 11 to hosting our first virtual service on March 15!

Lora will be conducting the virtual service on Zoom at 10:30 this Sunday. In order to access the video, you will need to choose a device (smart phone, laptop, or computer) and download the Zoom app <https://zoom.us/download>. You do not need to do this if you plan to phone in. You may want to view this eight-minute "How to Use Zoom" video <https://vimeo.com/397678793>

Our YRE ministry continues to upload videos. One will be uploaded at 7 a.m. Sunday morning at this link: <https://youtu.be/TiyAR-PFtyE>

Our building is now officially closed. To help people who are hungry, please send financial contributions to the Assistance Center of Towson Churches and Our Daily Bread. Please do NOT bring canned food and casseroles to TUUC.

Our opening words on Sunday were the

following poem by the Rev. Lyn Ungar, minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship.

<http://www.lynnungar.com/poems/pandemic/> May we continue to support one another in thinking of this as a sacred time to focus on what is most important in our lives and to connect, virtually, with people we love. For this is what it means to be a people of wisdom. With love, Rev. Clare

## ZOOM SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE REPORT

Date	Time	Adults/Children
3/15/20	10:30 AM	91



## DENOMINATIONAL MINUTE

At 5:00 pm March 29, 2020, the Maryland General Assembly adjourned early due to the Covid-19 pandemic, leaving a lot of legislation hanging. However, we did get six of our priority bills passed. In addition, five other positive bills related to our issues passed. Below is the list, sorted by Task Force Issue:

### Climate change:

HB 1029/SB 224 - Clean Energy Jobs - Workforce Development – Scope - Clarifies the term "clean energy industry" and modifies the requirement that apprenticeship jobs training programs prepare workers for careers in the solar and wind sectors of the clean energy industry to also include geothermal and energy efficiency careers, making them eligible to receive support through the Clean Energy Workforce Account.

### Criminal Justice:

HB 49 - Criminal Procedure- Pretrial Release- Pretrial Risk Scoring Instruments - requires a jurisdiction that uses a "pretrial risk scoring instrument" to determine the eligibility of a defendant for pretrial release to have an independent validation study of the instrument conducted at least once every five years. The bill also adds "pretrial risk scoring instrument validation" as an authorized purpose for grants from the Pretrial Services Program Grant Fund and makes corresponding changes to provisions governing the fund.

**Priority:** SB 684 - Correctional Services - Prerelease Unit for Women - Facilities and Services (Gender-Responsive Prerelease Act) - Requires the Division of Correction to operate a comprehensive rehabilitative prerelease unit for women that is a separate structure in which specified services are provided, has security features for specified female inmates, and matches security level on a validated gender-responsive risk measure. The DOC is also required to make evidence-based and gender-responsive services available to female inmates at the prerelease unit for women. The bill also alters existing requirements for comprehensive rehabilitative prerelease services to require the services to utilize "evidence-based programs and practices" and "innovative programs and practices."

## Education:

**Priority:** HB 1300 - Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation - The Blueprint is built on the principle that every child deserves the best education regardless of zip code to compete in a global economy. It invests an additional \$4B in early childhood education, college and career readiness, increasing teacher salaries and providing more support for students who need them (special ed, EL, at-risk) and increased accountability and oversight.

## Gun Violence:

**Priority:** HB 4/SB 208 - Public Safety- Rifles and Shotguns- Sales, Rentals, and Transfers - requires that a licensed firearms dealer facilitate the “transfer” of a rifle or shotgun. “Transfer” means a sale, a rental, a furnishing, a gift, a loan, or any other delivery, with or without consideration. A dealer may charge a reasonable fee for facilitating a transfer of a rifle or shotgun. The bill establishes penalties for violations.

HB 1629 - Office of the Attorney General - Firearm Crime – Study - Require the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to study information regarding firearm crimes committed in the State since August 1, 2015, as specified, and identify specified information for each 9-1-1 request for emergency assistance involving a firearm crime.

SB 708 - Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund and Advisory Council – Alterations - Mandates \$3 million in the annual State budget to the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund for oversight of the Fund, public outreach and education and technical assistance and best practice education for grantees. It also authorizes Baltimore City to use funding appropriated for the Safe Streets Initiative to cover its related expenses.

## Health Care:

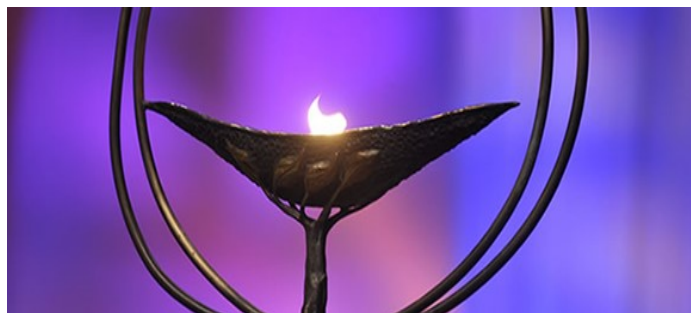
**Priority:** HB 959/SB 872 - Health Insurance - Consumer Protections - establishes the consumer protection provisions of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) that are currently specified through cross-references in Maryland law. It also establishes nondiscrimination provisions. The bill generally applies to any health benefit plan offered in the small group, individual, or large group markets and specifies exceptions for grandfathered plans. The Insurance Commissioner is authorized to enforce these provisions and must adopt specified regulations.

**Priority:** HB 196/SB 124 - Maryland Health Benefit Exchange- Assessment Applicability and Report on State-Based Individual Market Health Insurance Subsidies - requires the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE), by December 1, 2020, to report certain information to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee as it relates to establishing State-based individual market health insurance subsidies in the State. The bill also clarifies that the health insurance provider fee assessment applies to health insurance products that were subject to a specified federal fee as in effect on December 1, 2019.

**Priority:** HB 1095/SB 669 - Public Health - Prescription Drug Affordability Board and Fund - repeals the requirement that the Prescription Drug Affordability Board determine a funding source and report to specified committees of the General Assembly with a recommendation on legislation necessary to establish a funding source by December 31, 2020. Instead, the bill requires the board to assess and collect an annual fee on specified entities to fund the board. All fees must be paid to the newly established Prescription Drug Affordability Fund. If the board receives funding for its initial establishment from the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), the board must repay the funds over a three-year period beginning June 1, 2021.

HB 1100 - Prescription Drug Affordability Board- Meetings, Legal Advisor, Reports, and Technical Changes - repeals the requirement that the Prescription Drug Affordability Board hire legal counsel. Instead, the bill specifies that the Attorney General is the legal adviser to the board and must designate an assistant Attorney General as counsel to the board. The bill clarifies that the board may set upper payment limits in accordance with a specified plan of action. The bill also reduces the frequency by which the board is required to meet from at least once every six weeks to at least four times per year and delays the date by which the board must complete specified actions, including its study and report on the entire pharmaceutical distribution and payment system in the State and policy options being used in other states and countries to lower the list price of pharmaceuticals.

Unfortunately, no bills passed related to Economic Justice, Immigration, or Medical Aid in Dying.



## NOTICES

### **PHISHING SCAM**

Please do NOT respond to an e-mail entitled "Blessings," ostensibly from me, with a Gmail address. It is not a legitimate e-mail address; I did not send it. It is a phishing e-mail. I have alerted Gmail to this fraudulent activity.

Many UU congregations are being hit with this phishing scam impersonating the Minister's e-mail address. Please, please know I would never solicit money from you personally through an e-mail. Never. Ever. Ever.

I am grateful to the TUUC members who reached out to alert me to this scam. If you ever receive an e-mail (ostensibly from me) that asks you to send money to a third party, please ignore it and let me know!

---Rev. Clare

### **BOARD MEETING**

At our Zoom Board meeting Wednesday evening, members asked whether or not we are "passing the plate" electronically during worship. Yes we are!

You may text your pledge to: 410-834-0700

You may use PayPal to pay your pledge to [treasurer@towsonuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@towsonuuc.org).

You may still mail checks to the church. Mail is being checked.

Renewing your pledge is more important than ever and may be done on-line here: <https://tuucdatabase.breezechms.com/give/online>

We are committed to being a spiritual community in virtual space during this crisis and we need your financial support.

This includes paying staff who are continuing to work remotely.

I'm grateful to the Board for voting to provide two weeks paid sick leave if staff cannot do their work from home.

Though we must keep physical distance, we are a truly caring community.

Thank you for your generous support.

---Rev. Clare

### **THE ASSISTANCE CENTER OF TOWSON CHURCHES (ACTC)**

The Assistance Center of Towson Churches is continuing to operate, on a limited basis, to provide bags of boxed and canned food to people who are hungry in our community. During this time of physical distancing, TUUC is no longer collecting canned and box goods. However, you may support the good work of ACTC by making a contribution on-line through PayPal:

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=oLK6wPbv\\_Z4TLDZXJltu37aJbsNHgyfGng8cty\\_0Bt6iNMw3dfgRySvtrwpoZAv0-aLVd0&country.x=US&locale.x=](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=oLK6wPbv_Z4TLDZXJltu37aJbsNHgyfGng8cty_0Bt6iNMw3dfgRySvtrwpoZAv0-aLVd0&country.x=US&locale.x=)

### **Soul Matters Moment (and Zoom practice) Wednesday-Friday, March 18, 19, 20 8:30-8:45am**

Gather for a short reading and spiritual practice, using materials from Soul Matters Small Group packets and the Sacred Words Supplements; time to share and be in community even as we are physically apart. Led by ministerial intern Lora Powell-Haney.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/898443123>

Meeting ID: 898 443 123

One tap mobile

+16468769923 + 898443123# US (New York)

+16699006833 + 898443123# US (San Jose)

### **ANNOUNCING CABIN FEVER**

The new TUUC movie group to help get you through these isolated times!

Every week, Andrew Hager will announce a new movie available on Netflix. On Friday, he'll create a message board thread for group discussion. Discuss cinema with friends in the comfort of your living room without having to tidy up first!

### **Week of 3/16-3/20**

#### **THE INVENTION OF LYING**

In this satirical romantic comedy, Ricky Gervais is the only liar in a world of brutal honesty. (Available on Netflix. Rated PG-13.)

Message Board: <https://cabinfevertuuc.freeforums.net/thread/2/invention-lying>

### **Week of 3/23-3/27**

#### **SNOWPIERCER**

Academy Award-winner Bong Joon Ho directs this dystopian post-apocalyptic fable, in which all of the world's remaining population

travels together on a train. Social classes are contained in separate passenger cars, and revolution is stirring. (Available on Netflix. Rated R.)

Message Board: Active 3/27/00

Watch our website for updated information!  
[www.towsonuuc.org](http://www.towsonuuc.org)

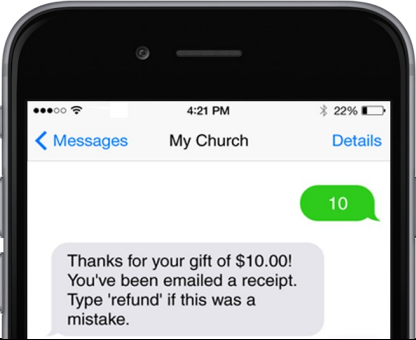


**Don't Work Sick**  
**Don't School Sick**  
**Don't Church Sick**

**DONATE BY TEXT**  
 Send an amount to  
**(410)834-0700**

**Fund Names:**

- 2019-20
- 2020-21
- Plate
- ODB
- Charitable
- Hospitality
- General Fund



**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC**

Calendar is subject to change. Check the website calendar at [www.towsonuuc.org](http://www.towsonuuc.org) for most current schedule.

20 Mar	Friday	Soul Matters Moments/ Zoom Practice	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/898443123">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/898443123</a>	8:30 AM
22 Mar	Sunday	Sunday Service	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/2595416929">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/2595416929</a>	10:30 AM
22 Mar	Sunday	YRUU (Youth Group)	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/314567905">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/314567905</a>	12:00 PM
22 Mar	Sunday	Roots & Wings Ostara Ritual	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/912450947">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/912450947</a>	4:00 PM
24 Mar	Tuesday	Virtual Coffee w/Rev. Clare	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/2595416929">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/2595416929</a>	12:00 PM
25 Mar	Wednesday	Al-Anon Meeting	Email <a href="mailto:stosh.a@verizon.net">stosh.a@verizon.net</a> for Zoom link	7:00 PM
26 Mar	Thursday	Virtual Coffee w/Rev. Clare	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/2595416929">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/2595416929</a>	4:00 PM
28 Mar	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	TUUC Campus	9:00 AM
29 Mar	Sunday	Sunday Service	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/2595416929">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/2595416929</a>	10:30 AM
31 Mar	Tuesday	Virtual Coffee w/Rev. Clare	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/2595416929">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/2595416929</a>	12:00 PM



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Lutherville MD 21093-9705  
Phone: 410-825-6045  
Email: [churchoffice@towsonuuc.org](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org)  
Website: [www.towsonuuc.org](http://www.towsonuuc.org)  
Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 10AM—3PM

### **Minister**

Reverend Clare L. Petersberger  
[revclare@towsonuuc.org](mailto: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](mailto:lpowellhaney@meadville.edu)

### **Staff**

#### Youth Religious Exploration Director:

Joyce Duncan, Credentialed Religious Educator  
[tuucdre@towsonuuc.org](mailto:tuucdre@towsonuuc.org)

#### Music Director:

Tracy Hall  
[music@towsonuuc.org](mailto:music@towsonuuc.org)

#### Church Administrator:

Kai Aiyetoro  
[churchoffice@towsonuuc.org](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org)

#### Administrative Assistant:

Nancy Hannah  
[assistant@towsonuuc.org](mailto:assistant@towsonuuc.org)

#### Bookkeeper:

Raly Baltchev  
[bookkeeper@towsonuuc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@towsonuuc.org)