



# The Threshold

Towson Unitarian  
Universalist Church

*A Welcoming Congregation*

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

**MARCH 29, 2020 10:30 AM**

**REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER: BE AS FRODO**

A TUUC tradition is to conclude our Coming Of Age ceremony and to then include in our High School Bridging ceremony the reading, "Be As Frodo," based on the character of Frodo in "Lord Of The Rings." The reading is about the journey of life. A recent celebration of life included a reading that more than one family has chosen at a time of death: Gandalf teaching Pippin that "the journey doesn't end here. Death is just another path..." March 25 was Tolkien Reading Day celebrating the life and works of J. R. R. Tolkien. Did you read your favorite Tolkien passage on March 25th? If not, which author(s) would you choose to honor as a conveyor of wisdom on your life's journey?

### **YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION**

The Youth RE Committee and I have been working hard to provide spiritual sustenance and community during these changing times. We invite those of all ages to join us for the

Family Gatherings, which offer ritual, song, yoga, and story. These gatherings are offered as prerecorded YouTube videos. Here is the link for this week.

Video link: <https://youtu.be/KVCuUzkyErg>

We also offered our first Story time last night held over Zoom meetings. We welcome those of all ages. We hope you can join us soon for any of these get togethers!

Here is the link for the next one, which will be on Tuesday, March 31, at 7:30 pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/894449421>

Meeting ID: 894 494 219

Spice is offering a music experience for young children. The first will be this Friday, March 27 at 4 - 4:30 pm. Here is the link for Music with Spice:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/193303940>

Meeting ID: 193 303 940

## CLARE'S COLLOQUY

I'll find you in the morning sun  
And when the night is new  
I'll be looking at the moon  
But I'll be seeing you  
I'll be seeing you.  
----I'll Be Seeing You, Vera Lynn

In the midst of anxious news about increasing numbers of Covid-19 cases, came the good news that the British singer, Vera Lynn, celebrated her 103 birthday. As she received good wishes from around the United Kingdom, she encouraged people to find “moments of joy” during these “hard times.” It was not the first time in her life that she had done so. She became famous for entertaining services personnel in World War II with songs like, “I’ll Be Seeing You.”

In these days of social distancing, we have been “seeing” each other not “in all the familiar places” but in virtual space. Over 100 unique devices logged on for worship on March 22<sup>nd</sup> when Lora shared the story of Greta the sheep and reflected on the wisdom we find in unlikely places. And we experienced our first virtual coffee hour in break-out rooms.

If you have been joining us for worship at 10:30 a.m., please know that the log-in meeting number for computers, tablets, and smart phones has changed to <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/359320014> Meeting ID: 359 320 014. Log-on information, including how to phone in, may be found on the front page of the website as well as the TUUC calendar. If you need any technical assistance while using the Zoom platform, please e-mail Kat at [ravenkatie@gmail.com](mailto:ravenkatie@gmail.com).

In addition to “seeing” each other for worship on Sunday morning, we are adding more opportunities for connection: Monday 5 p.m. Vespers conducted by Karyn Marsh; Tuesday noon, Coffee With Rev Clare; 7:30-8:00 p.m., Bedtime Story, Joyce Duncan; Thursday, 4 p.m., Coffee with Rev. Clare; 7:30 Choir, Tracy Hall; Friday 11 a.m. Great Ideas Discussion, Rev. Clare Log-on information for these meetings is in the calendar in the newsletter and also on the TUUC calendar on the TUUC website: <https://www.towsonuuc.org/church/>

Our Phone Pals program has launched! Over 30 TUUC members have volunteered to be a Phone Pal! If you would like to learn more about this program, please call or e-mail me or Carol Horst.

Many thanks to those who filled out the needs and gifts assessment form here: <https://www.towsonuuc.org/tuuc-community-needs-assessment> As always, if a listening ear would be helpful, please let me know.

Until we can see each other again in all the old familiar places, may we continue to create moments of joy during these hard times through our connections to the caring and comforting community of The Towson Unitarian Universalist Church.

—Rev. Clare

## TUUC PROGRAMMING WILL CONTINUE IN VIRTUAL SPACE

### TUUC WILL REMAIN IN VIRTUAL SPACE THROUGH AT LEAST MAY 3

As we moved to physical distancing in mid-March, the leadership decided we would revisit our decision in early April. It has become clear, with the Maryland public schools remaining closed through the end of April, that we will remain in virtual space as a congregation through May 3. We will revisit whether to open after May 3 at the end of April. ---The TUUC A-Team

### LET'S CELEBRATE 20 YEARS!

A "virtual" Celebration of Reverend Clare's 20th anniversary of ministry at TUUC!

When: Sunday, April 26th during the single 10:30am service.

Let's create a wave of joy from near and far by joining together through Zoom to worship and celebrate!

(Link to Zoom and additional details will be provided closer to the event)

Please help make this event special for Rev. Clare, by sharing reminiscences, photos (jpeg format requested) or words of gratitude!

Please email these to Karen Fireman: [specialevents@towsonuuc.org](mailto:specialevents@towsonuuc.org)—attention Clare's 20th.

If you have any other thoughts or changes, please let me know! Thank you, Karen

### CABIN FEVER

TUUC's online movie group continues! Every Monday, a new film will be announced, with a message board open for discussion later in the week. Grab some popcorn and join the conversation!

### SNOWPIERCER — Week of 3/23-3/27

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: <https://cabinfevertuuc.freeforums.net/thread/3/snowpiercer>

### BERNIE — Week of 3/30

Jack Black plays Bernie, the nicest man in a small Texas town. Shirley Maclaine is the rich, mean-spirited widow he befriends. Their bizarre relationship becomes a focus for gossip and eventually leads to murder. A cheerful black comedy based on a true story. (Available on Amazon Prime. Rated PG-13.)

Message Board: Available next week

### 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

## ACTC- FEEDING PEOPLE WHO ARE HUNGRY

With the Church being closed, we won't be donating food to the Assistance Center for Towson Churches. Families with food insecurity and people who are homeless continue to need food. During this period, please consider donating to them directly on their website:

[www.actconline.info/Participate.html](http://www.actconline.info/Participate.html)



You can use charge cards, debit cards, or other through their DONATE/PayPal link.

This may go on quite a long time, so you may wish to help further by making your donation monthly. ---Lorraine Sorbello

## ZOOM MEETING TUTORIALS

Not familiar with Zoom? Many of us have a learning curve with this online platform, but don't let that stop you from joining the congregation as we continue to be TUUC virtually. Here are a couple of short YouTube tutorials on how to use it:

How to Use Zoom on your phone:

<https://youtu.be/V8JaUEORjSo>

How to use Zoom on your computer:

<https://youtu.be/fMUxzrgZvZQ>

Sign up for FREE and download the app for phone or computer at <https://zoom.us/>

Committee Leaders, once you have signed up for you Free Zoom account, you may schedule your meetings as usual. Now the free accounts only allow meetings to last 40 minutes which should be plenty of time for an efficient meeting. But if that is not enough time for your meeting, schedule two meetings back to back. Take a short break and let everyone know that the meeting will continue with the next invite.

Send your meeting information to [churchoffice@towsonuuc.org](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org) so it may be uploaded to the calendar if it is an open meeting.

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

## ZOOM SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE REPORT

(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

Date	Time	Adults/Children
3/22/20	10:30 AM	207+



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

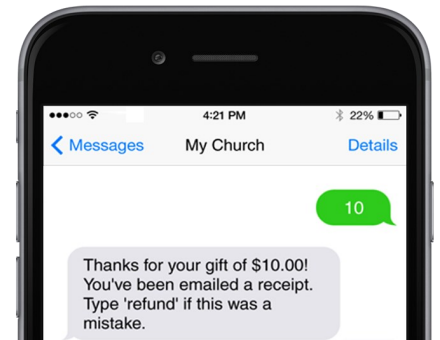
"All we have to decide is  
what to do with the time  
that is given to us."

- Gandalf

### 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.

29 Mar	Sunday	Sunday Service	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/359320014">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/359320014</a>	10:30 AM
30 Mar	Monday	Special Board Meeting	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/2595416929">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/2595416929</a>	7:00 PM
31 Mar	Tuesday	Virtual Coffee & Tea w/Rev.	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/156389754">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/156389754</a>	12:00 PM
31 Mar	Tuesday	Soul Matters Sharing Circle	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/341125887">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/341125887</a>	7:30 PM
2 April	Thursday	Virtual Coffee & Tea w/Rev.	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/184774759">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/184774759</a>	4:00 PM
5 April	Sunday	Sunday Service & Coffee Hour	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/359320014">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/359320014</a>	10:30 AM
5 April	Sunday	Green Sanctuary Meeting	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/705121703">https://zoom.us/j/705121703</a>	12:00 PM
12 April	Sunday	Sunday Service & Coffee Hour	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/359320014">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/359320014</a>	10:30 AM



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Lutherville MD 21093-9705  
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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)