



**The  
Threshold**

**Towson Unitarian  
Universalist Church**

*A Welcoming Congregation*

**What does it mean to be a people of liberation?**

**April 5, 2020 10:30 AM Join Zoom Meeting**  
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/359320014>  
**Meeting ID: 359 320 014**  
**One tap mobile +16468769923,,359320014#**  
**US (New York)**

**Rev. Clare L. Petersberger: *Spiritual Liberation In Hard Times***

In Judaism, April 8 marks the beginning of Passover. The story is retold of the liberation of the Hebrew people from bondage. They, too, knew what it was like to be confined to their homes as the angel of death "passed over" them. In Christianity, April 10 marks Good Friday and the death of Jesus shortly after his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. What can we learn from these stories about spiritual liberation in hard times? Please bring a piece of string or thread or yarn to worship. It will be part of a Unitarian Universalist ritual illustrating what helps us through such times.



**YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION**

We hope you will find spiritual sustenance and community during these changing times by joining one or more of these meetings.

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. It is available on Thursday morning.

Video link: [https://youtu.be/\\_ymCmCWiOeg](https://youtu.be/_ymCmCWiOeg)

We hope you can join us soon for any of these get togethers!

Here is the link for the next story time, which will be on Tuesday, April 7, 7:30 pm.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/89449421> — Meeting ID: 894 494 219

Spice is offering a music experience for young children. Join us this Friday, April 3, 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

In various Zoom conversations this week, TUUC members and friends have lifted up something for which they are grateful. In the midst of uncertainty, fear, and depression, gratitude spiritually brings us back to the present moment as surely as breathing physically brings us back to the present moment.

The liberating practice of gratitude will be the focus of our virtual celebration of Easter this year.

To this end, I am seeking a digital photograph you have taken (or might take by April 7) of something for which you are grateful. Your photograph will be shared publicly in our Easter Sunday worship service.

Your photo can be something from nature, someone from your family (if you have their permission!); an experience or object from your day or week for which you are thankful.

Please e-mail your gratitude photo and a brief description of it to

[RevClare@towsonuuc.org](mailto:RevClare@towsonuuc.org) by the morning of April 8.

The 20<sup>th</sup> century theologian, Paul Tillich, extended this invitation:

“Let us keep ourselves open to the power that carries our life in every moment...that we may be filled with silent gratefulness.”

May your week be filled with spoken and unspoken gratefulness.

I am grateful for you!

And I am grateful for all the opportunities for virtual connection being offered by TUUC: from discussions to sing-alongs; from vespers to a weekly bed time story; from interest groups to family gatherings. Please keep checking the TUUC calendar <https://www.towsonuuc.org/church> for links and phone numbers to sign-in to experience beloved community!

---Rev. Clare

## NEWS ABOUT US

We regret to inform you of the death of Cynthia Saalfield on March 29, 2020.

Cynthia moved from Arkansas to Edenwald in Towson in September 2018 to be closer to her daughter Samantha and son-in-law, Nick.

Cynthia was a dedicated member of our Soul Matters Sharing Circle.

She enjoyed Ethnic luncheons, participating in the Singles Group, and being a member of the TUUC Women's Lunch Bunch at Edenwald.

In the past year, she went on a Roads Scholar trip of the Great Lakes and attended her 60th

high school reunion.

A celebration of Cynthia's life will be scheduled when we can gather once again.

Messages of condolence may be sent to Samantha and Nick. Their contact information is in Breeze.

A teacher by vocation, Cynthia was a lifelong religious seeker.

Her keen and curious mind, warm and caring heart, quick wit, and strong commitment to moral issues such as reproductive justice will be greatly missed! ---Rev. Clare

## TUUC PROGRAMMING WILL CONTINUE IN VIRTUAL SPACE

### VESPER SERVICES

Starting April 6, TUUC will be holding vesper services online via Zoom. A vesper service is a short service that includes music, meditation/prayer, and readings, but no sermon. They are meant to provide time for reflection in an otherwise busy week. All are welcome.

The first vesper service will be at 7:00 pm on April 6. Drop in by clicking on this link: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/696348175>.



### 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

### TECHNICAL USHERS



Are you interested in joining the team of Technical Ushers for our Sunday virtual worship services? This role involves being a co-host on Zoom, and taking care of one or more

responsibilities during the service, such as greeting people, turning off participant video (to save bandwidth for the entire meeting),

keeping people muted, showing the slides, or reading aloud contributions in the chat. You should be comfortable with Zoom and technology and be willing to attend a rehearsal on Thursday at 6 pm as well as join the Zoom meeting 15 minutes early on Sunday morning.

To volunteer, please contact our Church Administrator, Kai Aiyetoro, at [churchoffice@towsonuuc.org](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org).

### GREAT IDEAS DISCUSSION, FRIDAY, 11:00 AM - NOON

Several TUUC members and friends expressed an interest in a virtual conversation on Great Ideas. We begin this Friday, April 3, at 11 a.m. with an exploration of Existentialism. Specifically, we will reflect on questions about the meaning of existence raised in Albert Camus' 1947 novel, *The Plague*. Future great ideas to be discussed will be brainstormed at this meeting.

### LET'S CELEBRATE 20 YEARS!



On Sunday morning April 26<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating Reverend Clare's 20<sup>th</sup> year at TUUC. As we plan the service, which will be delivered remotely using

Zoom, the Committee on Ministry is developing a pictorial history of Clare's ministry. In that spirit, if you have a digital or digitized picture involving Reverend Clare that you would like to share, please email it to: [specialevents@towsonuuc.org](mailto:specialevents@towsonuuc.org) with the subject line Clare's 20th.



## CABIN FEVER

### Week of 3/30—BERNIE



Jack Black plays Bernie, the nicest man in a small Texas town. Shirley MaLaine 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.)

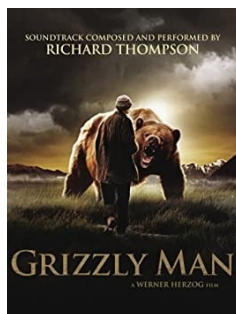
Message Board: [https://](https://cabinfevertuuc.freeforums.net/thread/new/1)

[cabinfevertuuc.freeforums.net/thread/new/1](https://cabinfevertuuc.freeforums.net/thread/new/1)

### Week of April 6—GRIZZLY MAN

In this thought-provoking documentary, Werner Herzog explores the life and death of Timothy Treadwell, who spent his time living and interacting with grizzlies in Alaska—until one bear killed him. A fascinating look at man's relationship with nature. (Available on Amazon Prime. Rated R.)

Message Board: Goes live next Friday



## VIRTUAL BYLAWS LISTENING SESSION

The Board has been in the process of revising the Bylaws. The proposed revisions to Articles 2 and 3 were sent out via email to the Congregation in February. Proposed revisions to Articles 7 and 9 were sent out via email to the Congregation on April 1. The Bylaws Listening Sessions, scheduled for March 22, were cancelled due to COVID-19. Instead, the Board will be holding a virtual listening session on **Sunday, April 19 at 1:00 pm** via Zoom. <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/966312967> At the session, we will entertain questions and comments

regarding the proposed Bylaws changes. You can also email your comments and questions to [secretary@towsonuuc.org](mailto:secretary@towsonuuc.org).

## CALL FOR ATTENDEES – PROGRAM COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING WITH SUE ROYER, PRESIDENT-ELECT AND CONVENER OF THE PROGRAM COUNCIL

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 AT 7:30 VIA ZOOM

The Program Council will meet on April 8 via Zoom. We'll check in with each other. Some programs are still being offered virtually. Other programs are deferred.

Interested TUUC members and friends are welcome to participate.

<https://zoom.us/j/249434058>

Or dial in: 301-715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID: 249 434 058

## PASSING THE PLATE

We are committed to being a spiritual community in virtual space during this crisis and we need your financial support. This includes paying our ongoing financial commitments to our vendors and staff who are continuing to work remotely.

Renewing your pledge is more important than ever and now may be done online here:

<https://www.towsonuuc.org/2021-pledge-form>

## How to contribute though Breeze

Paying your pledge or making contributions can be easily sent through Breeze through this link: <https://tuucdatabase.breezechms.com/give/online>

## How to text your contribution or pledge

Send a text to: 410-834-0700 and indicate where you want your contribution to go by entering one of the commands to get your contribution to the right fund. Here are examples:

| Command  | Description  |
|--|--|
| \$50   | Donates \$50 to TUUC.<br>Users can type any amount; the dollar sign is optional (e.g. \$50 and 50 both work).  |
| give \$50  | Same as above.   |
| give   | Your text giving number will respond asking "how much you'd like to give".   |
| Here are our customized fund keywords:   |  |
| \$50 plate   | Donates \$50 to the plate fund.  |
| \$50 2019-20   | Donates \$50 to 2019-20 pledge   |
| \$50 2020-21   | Donates \$50 to 2020-21 pledge   |
| \$10 ODB   | Donates \$10 to Our Daily Bread  |
| \$50 Charitable  | Donates \$50 to Charitable Contributions   |
| \$50 Hospitality   | Donates \$50 to Hospitality Fund   |
| \$50 General Fund  | Donates \$50 to General Operations   |
| Note: Donors can only give to one fund at a time, but can donate several times separately. |  |
| \$50 weekly  | Sets up a recurring gift of \$50 each week. Frequency options are 'weekly', 'biweekly', 'monthly', and 'yearly'.   |
| \$50 plate weekly  | Sets up a recurring gift of \$50 each week to the plate fund. Frequency options are 'weekly', 'biweekly', 'monthly', and 'yearly'.   |
| update   | Allows you to update your payment method or recurring gift. Your text giving number will respond with a link where users can make these changes. To change from credit card to a bank account, click on the current option and change. |

## PayPal Contributions

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

## Mail Contributions

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

## 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:

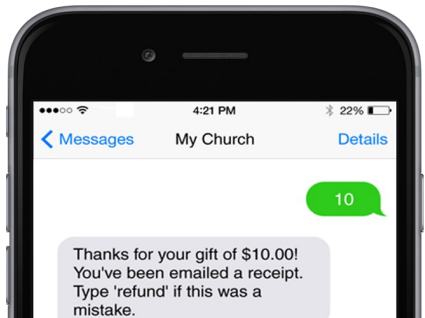
<https://youtu.be/fMUxzrgZvZQ>

### DONATE BY TEXT

Send an amount to  
**(410)834-0700**

**Fund Names:**

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



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

Committee Leaders, once you have signed up for your 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.

### #GetUsPPE

If you have extra personal protective equipment to share, this organization is gratefully accepting donations: <http://www.getusppe.org>

### EARL'S PLACE UPDATE



As we all practice social distancing many of us may be feeling anxiety

and frustration. Now think about if you were experiencing homelessness and facing this crisis. Risk factors are compounded for those who stay in communal living areas. While we cannot increase the number of men we assist at either Earl's Place or Prospect Place, we can continue to provide a safe place for our residents to remain as healthy as possible.

The staff and I continue to work with the men. We are encouraging hand washing and all the other protocols to help prevent the COVID-19 virus between us or the wider community. **Thank you to everyone who has reached out to us to check on us and to see**

**what we need.** If you are able to make a cash donation, the funds will be used to continue our daily operations. In-kind donations of nonperishable food items are also helpful. Thank you for being a part of our family. Together, we are changing lives. You can find more information and our wish lists on our website, [cchbaltimore.org](http://cchbaltimore.org) or by calling me at 410-522-0225.

Gratefully, Sheila Helgerson,  
Cornerstone Community Housing

### GREEN SANCTUARY

The Green Sanctuary Committee will hold its monthly meeting on Sunday April 5 at 12 noon. All are welcome. Here is the zoom invite:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/705121703>

Meeting ID: 705 121 703

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,705121703# US (New York)

+13126266799,,705121703# US (Chicago)

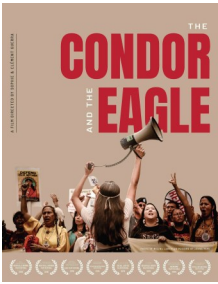
### ADORE AND THE GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE INVITE YOU TO:

The Condor & The Eagle Film Screening and Q&A on Saturday, April 4th @ 2:00-4:30 pm Eastern

Due to technical difficulties with the 3/26 showing of The Condor and the Eagle, there will be another showing on Saturday April 4th. Registration is a must: [RSVP HERE](#)

This documentary tells of the efforts of indigenous peoples in the northern and southern hemispheres to fight environmental injustices on their lands and in their neighborhoods.

The film will be shown through another platform called WebinarJam on April 4th.



Those with fast-speed internet access will also be provided with a separate hyperlink where they can watch the film in full HD quality.

**ADORE VIRTUAL MEETING**

Wednesday, April 22, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm via Zoom

Topic: In the Pink: How Racism Impacts Health and Health Care

"In the pink" is an old expression meaning that one is in good health and spirits. But what if one isn't, well, pink? Since the revelation of the Tuskegee experiments, in which US Public Health Service officials tracked the health of 600 rural black men in Alabama with syphilis for 40 years, without giving them a diagnosis or treatment, African Americans have had reasons to mistrust the medical establishment. Even today, African Americans and other people of color are often treated differently by their doctors and hospitals. Our A Dialog on Race and Ethnicity (ADORE) group will be discussing some of these differences in treatment and outcomes.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/218633181>  
 Meeting ID: 218 633 181  
 Or dial in: 301-715-8592; 312-626-6799;  
 646-558-8656; 346-248-7799;  
 669-900-9128 ; 253-215-8782  
 Meeting ID: 218 633 181

**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

**ZOOM SUNDAY SERVICE  
 ATTENDANCE REPORT**  
 (Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

| Date    | Time     | Adults/Children |
|---------|----------|-----------------|
| 3/29/20 | 10:30 AM | 280             |

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



## SEDER AT TUUC

The TUUC virtual Seder will take place on ZOOM on Saturday, April 11, at 4PM. It will take around an hour and a half and will include additional time for those who want to stay and talk about the experience. For security reasons, the conference will be locked around 4:10.

We ask that you register for the Seder by sending an email to Steve Finner, whose email address is in Breeze. When you do, a .pdf. copy of the script, called a Haggadah will be emailed to you which you may print. The Haggadah will also be displayed on your screen during the Seder.

Following is the zoom invitation. If you are unfamiliar with zoom, we suggest you click on the link below and orient yourself before the Seder. This can be done at any time.

**Topic: TUUC Passover Seder**

**Time: Apr 11, 2020 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/200454854>

Meeting ID: 200 454 854

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,200454854# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,200454854# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

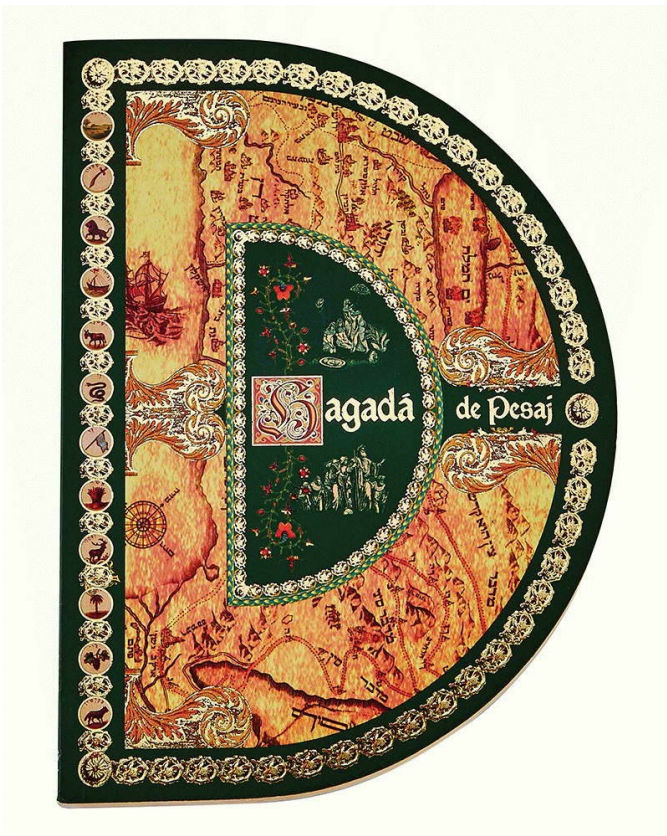
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 200 454 854

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adatJruuTf>

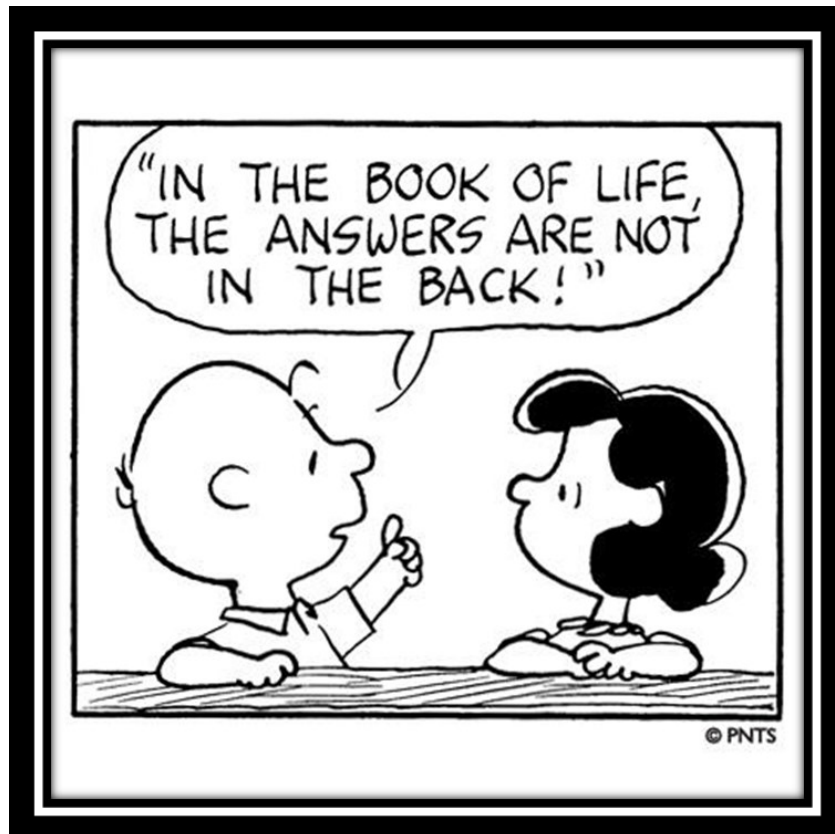




## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

|          |           |                              |   |          |
|----------|-----------|------------------------------|---|----------|
| 3 April  | Friday    | Great Ideas Discussion Group | <a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/666875374">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/666875374</a>   | 11:00 AM |
| 4 April  | Saturday  | Music with Spice (all ages)  | <a href="https://zoom.us/j/882015564">https://zoom.us/j/882015564</a>   | 7:30 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 |
| 6 April  | Monday    | Vesper Service               | <a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/696348175">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/696348175</a>   | 7:00 PM  |
| 7 April  | Tuesday   | Storytelling                 | <a href="https://zoom.us/j/894494219">https://zoom.us/j/894494219</a>   | 7:30 PM  |
| 8 April  | Wednesday | Al-Anon Meeting              | See website calendar for info   | 7:00 PM  |
| 9 April  | Thursday  | Zoom Rehearsal               | <a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/859624039">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/859624039</a>   | 6:00 PM  |
| 9 April  | Thursday  | Virtual Choir Rehearsal      | <a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/706106021?pwd=ZW9RS2k0ZVAvZjhyS1h5c2V4cmJOUT09">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/706106021?pwd=ZW9RS2k0ZVAvZjhyS1h5c2V4cmJOUT09</a> | 7:30 PM  |
| 10 April | Friday    | Great Ideas Discussion Group | <a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/666875374">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/666875374</a>   | 11:00 AM |
| 10 April | Friday    | Music with Spice (all ages)  | <a href="https://zoom.us/j/882015564">https://zoom.us/j/882015564</a>   | 7:30 PM  |
| 11 April | Saturday  | Passover Seder               | <a href="https://zoom.us/j/200454854">https://zoom.us/j/200454854</a>   | 4:00 PM  |





1710 Dulaney Valley Road  
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: TBD (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: Vacant  
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)