



**The
Threshold**

Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church

A Welcoming Congregation

What does it mean to be a people of liberation?

April 26, 2020 @ 10:30 AM

Rev. Clare L. Petersberger, Karyn Marsh, Karen Fireman, Andrew Hager, Spice Kleinmann; Tracy Hall:

Answering the Call

Just over twenty years ago, the Reverend Clare Petersberger was installed as TUUC's fourth settled minister. From that time, Rev. Clare has served TUUC through tragedy like 9/11 and triumph like marriage equality. In today's virtual service, we will celebrate her ministry as we go forward into the future with a renewed commitment to building beloved community.

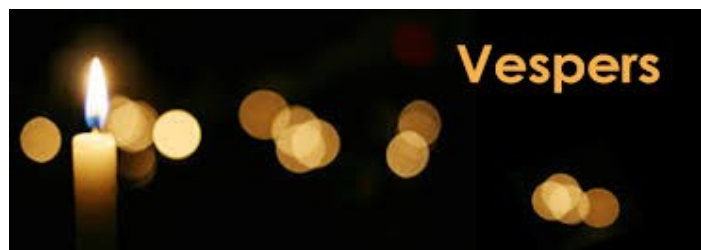
NEED HELP WITH ZOOM!

Contact Kat at zoommtgs@towsonuuc.org

YRE—FAMILY GATHERING

I hope you can join us for the Family Gathering that is offered as a YouTube video. The link will be in the calendar and on the first page of the website. This week we will talk about how we gain resilience from

others, as illustrated by the story of John Murray and Thomas Potter. Murray Grove, the birthplace of Universalism in America, celebrates its 250th anniversary this year on September 30. We will share songs and ritual and talk a little about how we can give and get strength from those around us.



VESPER SERVICES

TUUC is 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 vesper service will be at 7:00 pm on Mondays. Drop in by clicking on this link: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/696348175>.

FROM THE BOARD – BY SUE ROYER, PRESIDENT-ELECT

We hope that all of you are well during this very different and challenging time. I'm grateful for the community of this church, now through virtual space. Our 2020 - 2021 Stewardship campaign was well underway when the physical distancing measures and closures were implemented. We had made the decision to pause for a few weeks following up with those who had not yet pledged for the next fiscal year. Now the Board is asking for your attention to pledging, as we work on our church budget for the next fiscal year. We have an online form in the member area of our web site:

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

You can fill that in and the information will go directly to the church. Please complete your pledge form as soon as possible. We will be making phone calls to those who have not yet pledged.

For the current fiscal year, if you don't need the entire government stimulus payment, please consider donating some of it to TUUC. We continue to pay our staff, who are working from home. We continue to pay our ongoing bills, even though we are not in our building. You can pay your pledge in several

ways. Direct debit is our preference because there are no fees and it's automatic. You can log into Breeze and set up a recurring or one-time payment, by providing your checking account information or a credit card. We incur fees for credit card payments. In Breeze, go to Give Now. The mail at church is going into a locked mailbox and being picked up weekly. This means you can still mail a check. Thank you for your care of our church community!

The Board received good feedback at the Bylaws listening session on April 19 and we will be making some updates to the proposed Bylaws changes for the articles that were covered. The Bylaws Committee still has some articles to review – stay tuned.

It was upsetting and disruptive that our Sunday service was Zoom bombed on April 19. We already had a number of security measures in place and have implemented additional changes for Sunday services. You will be emailed a password to access this week's service. And please do join us on Sunday, April 26 when we will have a special service honoring Reverend Clare Peterberger's twenty years of service to TUUC!



DONATE BY TEXT

Send an amount to
(410)834-0700

Fund Names:

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

CLARE'S COLLOQUY



Our spiritual question for May will be, “What does it mean to be a people of Thresholds?” The image that immediately comes to mind, especially under stay at home orders, is of a front door.

In Judaism, the question of what to keep out and what to allow in at the front door is symbolized by a *mezuzah* on the doorpost. It is often a beautifully crafted case containing a piece of parchment on which is handwritten the prayer “Hear, O Israel, the LORD (is) our God, the LORD is One”. It is a symbol of protection reminding the family that they are never alone.

In Christianity, the Catholic priest John O’Donohue wrote about his father and how, before going to work in the fields or on an errand to town, his father would turn in the doorway to look at his family and take a deep breath. John O’Donohue wrote “It seems that what he was doing as he left was inhaling the spirit of his loved ones to nourish and protect his journey, coming back to take for himself a blessing-breath.”

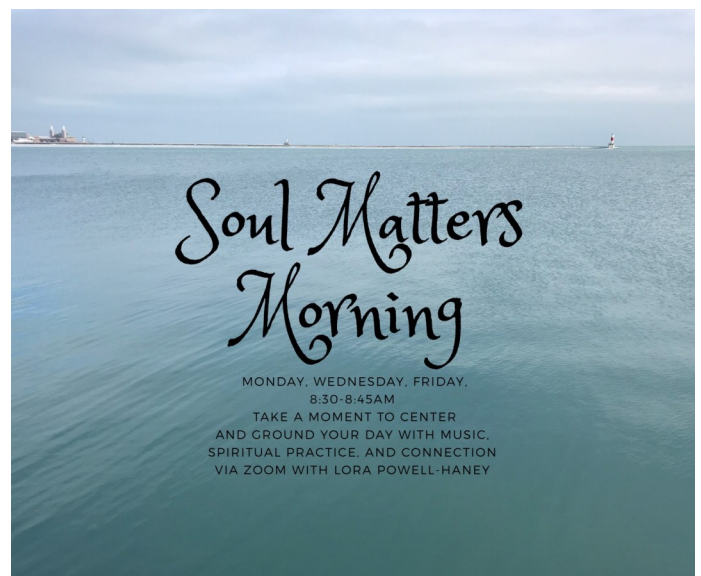
I have been thinking of these traditions of blessing at the threshold of a doorway in terms of our graduating high school seniors. They were anticipating proms and

processions and parties this spring. As a sign of solidarity, some people have been posting on Instagram and Facebook photos of their own senior self. But this does not really take away the grief of those not able to cross this threshold of graduating in traditional ways.

Parents recently reminded me that high school seniors are not the only ones missing milestone “graduations” from one grade to another.

So if you were going to offer Audrey Azzam and Beth Moseng (as well as younger students missing end-of-school celebrations) a Unitarian Universalist *mezuzah*, what would it look like and what words of blessing would it contain for them? What do you hope they will leave behind? What do you hope they will take with them? Please send me your images and words by April 29 (revclare@towsonuuc.org). Like John O’Donohue’s father, we will look back in love, take a virtual blessing breath, and remind one another that wherever we are, and wherever we go, we are never alone.

---Rev. Clare



VIRTUAL PROGRAMS CONTINUE AT TUUC

TUUC IS CONTINUING IN VIRTUAL SPACE

The A-Team voted to open the building of TUUC for the American Red Cross to hold a blood drive on May 2nd. There is a critical shortage of blood at this time. Thanks to Clare Flynn-Avallone and Jay Hauf for working with the American Red Cross.

However, TUUC as a spiritual community, will continue in virtual space until we learn from health authorities that it is safe to congregate again. So please check the calendar on the TUUC website for opportunities to engage with members and friends in virtual space.

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.

BREEZE

Now is an excellent time to familiarize yourself with Breeze (TUUC church database). If you are not connected with a login or password, please contact churchoffice@towsonuuc.org to get connected.

LET'S CELEBRATE 20 YEARS!

If you would like to contribute to the expenses for the celebration: gifts for Rev. Clare, donations are being accepted. You may donate online through Breeze (indicate Rev Clare 20th in the comments), or by mailing a check to TUUC, with Rev Clare 20th in the memo area of the check.

CABIN FEVER

Join the discussion! Our new TUUC Movies email group is the place to discuss Cabin Fever movies.

Email churchoffice@towsonuuc.org to be added to the list!

Week of April 20—BLADE RUNNER (The Final Cut)

Harrison Ford stars in Ridley Scott's sci-fi classic. Four escaped "replicants" are on the loose, and Ford is sent to terminate them. (Available on Netflix. Rated R.)



Week of April 27—DRAGON LIVES AGAIN

It's our first so-bad-it's-good guilty pleasure choice! In this 1977 Bruce-sploitation film, Bruce Lee dies and goes to Hell, where he opens a gym. But evil is afoot, and Bruce must fight James Bond, The Godfather, Clint Eastwood, and Emmanuelle. Fortunately, he teams up with Popeye the Sailor Man to restore peace to Hell. (Yes, this is the real plot.) Will this movie teach you something? Will it move you deeply? Of course not. Will it blow your mind? Yes. (Available on Amazon Prime. Unrated.)



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 through 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.

See examples in the grid.

PayPal Contributions

You may use PayPal to pay your pledge to treasurer@towsonuuc.org.

Mail Contributions

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

ZOOM FOR BEGINNERS

If you haven't yet set up Zoom and would like assistance, please call the church office at 410-825-6045 and leave a message. Messages are being checked. We have volunteers who will speak with you on the phone and provide assistance.



It is necessary to download software on your computer to run Zoom. Go to zoom.us and

Command	Description
\$50	Donates \$50 to TUUC. 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.

follow the instructions. If you want to access Zoom on a smart phone or a tablet, you will need to download the app.

For any Zoom meeting, you have the option of calling in instead of joining on a computer. There are multiple numbers and any of the numbers can be used. The Meeting ID (and password if one is required) are the key.

Here are some of the Zoom numbers (try any of these):

301-715-8592 or 312-626-6799 or 646-558-8656 or 346-248-7799 or 669-900-9128 or 253-215-8782

After you install Zoom on your computer, this video created by a UUA staff member has useful information on how to use it:

<https://vimeo.com/397678793>

Remember that you don't need to turn on your own video/camera. If you are more comfortable without your camera on, that's okay. We do ask that you identify yourself by name when joining worship or a program on Zoom.

BLOOD DRIVE

Working with the American Red Cross, we've scheduled Saturday, May 2nd, 2020 for the next TUUC Blood Drive. There is a critical need for blood right now but we are also in a different time with social distancing and COVID-19 disease prevention. We at TUUC strongly encourage anyone that has ANY reservation about giving blood at this time for ANY reason to please sit this one out. We will get past this and will have more blood drives in the future for you to participate in. Please only join us on May 2nd, if you are healthy and have no concerns about donating. To sign up for an appointment time between 8:00am -2:00pm please use this [link](#) OR email Clare Flynn-Avallone (see Breeze database) with your preferred times.

Give the Gift of Life - Give Blood!"



**American
Red Cross**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE AND CALL FOR CANDIDATES

The Nominating Committee is currently contacting members about serving in lay leadership positions. We invite those of you who may be interested in serving to contact a member of the committee to learn more about the role and responsibilities.

The following positions are expected to be up for election at the June 14 annual meeting:

Board of Trustees:

President – Sue Royer
President-Elect
Treasurer
Secretary
Trustee-At-Large (2)

Endowment Committee:

Member (2)

Nominating Committee:

Member (2)
Moderator

In addition, we are looking for a candidate to serve as Finance Head, which is an appointed volunteer position and a member of the Administrative Team.

Our goal is to identify interested and qualified candidates for all of these positions by early May. The members of the Nominating Committee are: George Harrison (chair), Ann Beezley, Dominique Hall, Marie Razulis, and Sue Royer (Board liaison). Contact information is in Breeze.

NEWCOMER WELCOME HOUR MAY 19, 7:30 PM

Are you spiritually curious and want to know more about Unitarian Universalism or TUUC? Have you been seeking a space to explore your spirituality while being in community? During this virtual session, we welcome newcomers as well as long-time members to drop in for a free-form exploration of

spirituality and community in a UU context. No registration is required, but if you have questions either about this session or TUUC, please email: membership@towsonuuc.org .

Topic: Newcomer Welcome Hour
Time: May 19, 2020 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96823223784>

Meeting ID: 968 2322 3784

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US
Meeting ID: 968 2322 3784

ZOOM TIPS FOR MEETING HOSTS

After you start the meeting, assign one or more co-hosts to help you manage the meeting. For larger meetings, keep participants muted to reduce background noise and distractions. Reading in unison or singing in unison doesn't work due to lag time. The leader reads or sings and participants keep themselves muted while joining in. There is a 40-minute time limit on meetings on free Zoom accounts. When the meeting ends, everyone can rejoin to continue the meeting, using the same Zoom Meeting ID.

Using a computer and in your account settings, these are the recommended settings:

1. New meetings should have passwords.
2. Disable join before host.
3. Enable waiting room.
4. Disable screen share for anyone but host.
5. Disable file transfer.
6. Disable annotation on the screen.

GREAT IDEAS DISCUSSION, FRIDAYS, 11:00 AM - NOON



Heraclitus of Ephesus was a pre-Socratic Greek philosopher who is remembered for his doctrine of change being central to the universe and specifically for the idea that "Change alone is unchanging."

Today we reflect on what we have learned about change throughout our lives. What have our experiences of the last five weeks taught us about change and the wisdom of Heraclitus? Our format is to discuss brief readings. All are welcome to attend any of these stand alone discussions. Here is the link: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/666875374>

SOCIAL ACTION

The Social Action Committee will meet, virtually, on Zoom after the [May 10 Service](#) (I don't figure Mother's Day will be a problem nowadays!). Leaving some time for Breakout meetings afterwards, we will meet at **12 noon**. All are welcome. The Zoom meeting address is:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/852724691?pwd=TnFiUS9NZXVTbkNXbFk3MDVUdTBTQT09>

Meeting ID: 852 724 691

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

Date	Time	Adults/Children
4/19/2020	10:30 AM	Not available

TUUC CONTINUING IN VIRTUAL SPACE THROUGH MAY AND POSSIBLY INTO JUNE

The Administrative Team has voted to keep TUUC in virtual space through at least May 31.

We will be following the guidance of the CDC and Maryland Health Department.

Given the uncertainty of the course of COVID, the TUUC Board of Trustees has begun talking about having our annual Congregational Meeting on-line on June 14. If you need support getting connected to ZOOM, please call the church office to let us know. You may also reach out for support on how to Zoom by sending an e-mail request to zoommtgs@towsonuuc.org ---Rev. Clare

FOLLOW UP ON ZOOM BOMBING OF TUUC

Although misery does not love company, we have learned that we were not the only

congregation in Baltimore County to be visited by Zoom Bombers on Sunday. We are taking appropriate action to enhance our security to prevent any further disruption of worship.

However, the hackers appear to know how to capture screen information. Now UU colleagues are sharing that some of their members are receiving requests for money from what appears to be the minister's Zoom account. Please know that if you receive any request for money that appears to be coming from my Zoom account (or any other TUUC leader's Zoom account) it is **NOT** a valid request. ---Rev. Clare

NEW SECURITY MEASURES FOR ZOOM WORSHIP ON APRIL 26, 2020

We are making changes to our Zoom security for Sunday morning virtual worship and to how we share the information needed to join.

We are sending you the Zoom Meeting ID for Sunday in this e-mail:

Join Zoom meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97077597195>

Dial by phone: +1 646 876 9923 US (NY)
Meeting ID: 970 7759 7195

In addition to this number, you will need a **password, which will be sent to you via email on Friday**. You will need to enter this password in order to join worship. It will not be available via any other TUUC communication channel. Please look for this e-mail on Friday and save it to a safe place.

Please log-on to worship by 10:15 a.m. on Sunday. Everyone except worship leaders will be in a waiting room until the service is about to begin, so you may walk away from your computer or tablet for a few minutes after entering the waiting room.

Shortly after the service begins, the meeting will be "locked." This means that if you want to attend Sunday's service, you will need to be logged in before the service is "locked."

If you have any trouble logging on with the password, please text Kat at 443-797-7482 or e-mail her at zoommtgs@towsonuuc.org

So many people have been working so hard to bring us engaging virtual worship services that deepen our spiritual and ethical lives; that fill our hearts; that soothe our souls; and that inspire us to work for racial, social, and

environmental justice. The best way to honor their hard work and love is to help one another to stay as safe in virtual space as we are helping one another to stay safe in physical space.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Looking forward to our loving celebration on Sunday. —Rev. Clare

DENOMINATIONAL MINUTE

This week's denominational minute comes from the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all, disrupting our previously normal lives, forcing us to take precautions, and isolating us from one another. It has impacted our livelihoods and finances, schools and careers, and even our entertainment and social activities. How we deal with it now will determine how we live after it has passed. Will we make the necessary personal sacrifices to slow its spread, keep ourselves and others safe, and provide the needed resources for our health providers and other essential workers? Will we remain in community with our fellow human beings to serve our mutual needs and help others survive and thrive? Will we hold our elected officials accountable for their leadership and maintain our democratic institutions, including assuring that free, fair elections are held in 2020?

While we are all stressed by the pandemic's dangers, it has also provided us with opportunities, and we should seize them with enthusiasm. We now have many chances to show generosity by contributing our time and/or resources to support groups fighting the virus and providing for those with specific needs for food, shelter, education, and mental/emotional support. We are also often reminded of the value in reaching out to

friends and family to offer support and comfort. These are things we can all do to weather the immediate crisis. But there is more that we can do.

While the pandemic peaks and subsides (as it will undoubtedly do), we can act now to shape the world on the other side of it. We can work to assure that our democracy survives as well. The 2020 election campaigns have been dramatically curtailed, with candidates suspending all gatherings and door-to-door canvassing, and even primary elections have been postponed due to possible exposures that could result from in-person voting. Efforts are underway to implement mail-only voting in many states, and campaigns are scrambling to find ways of reaching prospective voters remotely. This has been happening on a state-by-state basis, with no national strategy yet devised.

In spite of the virus' restrictions, we believe it is time to seize the moment and take strong action to shape the November election. Our goal is to enlist Maryland UUs in a sustained effort to increase the numbers of people voting for candidates who support our values and positions on issues. We ask that you join us in this important effort.

We know that many Maryland congregations are already working on UU the Vote activities, and we are asking local leaders to join our

team to help coordinate and support efforts throughout the state (and in neighboring states as well) by filling out this [congregational survey](#). You can join our Democracy Task Force [here](#), to get plugged into what is happening, help guide our work, and provide messaging, materials and support for congregations. You can join our Facebook group [here](#). Please note, you may have to like our page before you can join the group. Facebook groups are a good way for

you to share events, articles and happenings in your congregational area.

Finding ways of building online community and connection is an essential tool for our UU the Vote work, especially in this time of physical distancing. UULM-MD is planning to host regular statewide calls for Unitarian Universalists in Maryland who are working on voting rights and advocacy.

[Join our Democracy 2020 Task Force](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

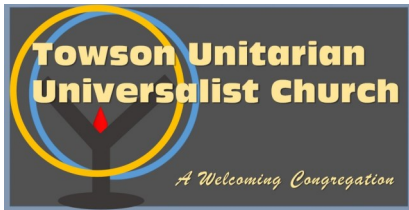
24 April	Friday	Great Ideas Discussion Group	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/666875374	11:00 AM
26 April	Sunday	Sunday Service & Coffee Hour	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97077597195	10:30 AM
27 April	Monday	Soul Matters Mornings	https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2267305075?pwd=clAxMTlCWlIGMFBBemYvWDlXT0d2Zz09	8:30 AM
27 April	Monday	Vesper Services	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/696348175	7:00 PM
28 April	Tuesday	Virtual Coffee & Tea w/Rev.	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/467202356	12:00 PM
28 April	Tuesday	Soul Matters Sharing Circle	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/341125887	7:30 PM
28 April	Tuesday	Storytelling	https://zoom.us/j/894494219	7:30 PM
29 April	Wednesday	Soul Matters Mornings	https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2267305075?pwd=clAxMTlCWlIGMFBBemYvWDlXT0d2Zz09	8:30 AM
30 April	Thursday	Virtual Coffee & Tea w/Rev.	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/629474885	4:00 PM
30 April	Thursday	Zoom Rehearsal	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/859624039	6:00 PM
30 April	Thursday	Virtual Choir Rehearsal	Email music@towsonuuc.org for Zoom information	7:30 PM
1 May	Friday	Soul Matters Mornings	https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2267305075?pwd=clAxMTlCWlIGMFBBemYvWDlXT0d2Zz09	8:30 AM
2 May	Saturday	Blood Drive	Meeting Room and Lobby	8:00 AM
2 May	Saturday	Committee on Ministry	Contact COM Chair for login info	10:00 AM

Watch TUUC website
for updated information!

www.towsonuuc.org

Watch TUUC website
for updated information!

www.towsonuuc.org



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: 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

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

Bookkeeper:

Raly Baltchev
bookkeeper@towsonuuc.org