

The Threshold

Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church

A Welcoming Congregation

What does it mean to be a people of thresholds?

May 10, 2020 - 10:30 AM

**Rev. Clare L. Petersberger: Unitarian
Universalist Service Committee Sunday
*They Make Their Own Bodies The Seed Of
Their Highest Hope***

This title is taken from a poem on hope by the Brazilian Liberation theologian and poet Rubem Alves. It applies to mothers and mothering figures who nurtured our own lives. And it applies to all those who work for human rights around the globe. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. This morning we remember Martha Sharp---a mother who left her children ages six and three in the care of friends in order to help refugees in Prague in 1939. We may not be able to physically travel during a pandemic but we can still reflect on the ways we are making of our own lives the seeds of our highest hopes. And we can learn about and become a member of the Unitarian

Universalist Service Committee to further the work for human rights around the globe. We are grateful to Bill and Salli Ward for being TUUC's liaisons to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

NEED HELP WITH ZOOM?

Contact zoommtgs@towsonuuc.org

YRE—FAMILY GATHERING

Family gatherings this month examine the theme of thresholds through the lenses of shelter, growing up, courage, and imagination.

Video link: <https://youtu.be/fpHFkH5AQsM>

This week's video considers Thresholds as a welcoming place, in particular how mothers and fathers act as our first place of welcome as we cross the threshold into the world. Our story today, The Magic Spring, comes from Korea and tells of the surprising events that befell a couple who longed for parenthood (retold from the story of the same name in *Ancient Stories for Modern Times* by Faye Mogensson). I hope you can join us for this

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS AT TUUC

recorded video, which offers a way for families to enjoy and connect with the theme by way of story, songs, yoga, ritual and short discussion of the theme together. Your family can share this anytime that is convenient for you.

Zoom meetings on Sundays continue for 4th-6th grade group, 7th-9th grade group and Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU).

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>.

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.

TECHNICAL USHERS

We are recruiting additional technical ushers. We want to rotate in one or two new ushers to give others a break. 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 20 minutes early on Sunday morning. To volunteer, please contact our Church Administrator, Kai Aiyetoro, at churchoffice@towsonuuc.org.



SECURITY MEASURES FOR VIRTUAL WORSHIP ON SUNDAY

On Fridays we will e-mail you the Zoom Meeting ID and password for the Sunday service. This will be a new meeting ID and password from the previous week. You will need to enter both to join worship. The password 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. Expect to spend a few minutes in the waiting room. The technical ushers will ensure that the meeting settings are adjusted

prior to letting in participants. It is helpful if you set up a free Zoom account with your first and last names. Otherwise, Zoom will pick up the name of your device, which in some cases may be "iPhone". This doesn't help us to confirm who is seeking to enter.

If you know of a visitor or guest who would like to join our service, please provide their information to churchoffice@towsonuuc.org by Thursday at 4 pm. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to ensure that our virtual worship space is as safe as possible.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS AT TUUC

CABIN FEVER

Starting this week, we will hold a short (30 minute) Zoom discussion about our weekly film. The meeting link and password will be sent via the TUUC Movies email list. To join this list and never miss another movie announcement, please email churchoffice@towsonuuc.org.



This week - **HAIL, CAESAR!** The Coen brothers turn their off-kilter gaze to 1950s Hollywood for a tale involving kidnapping, theology, Communists, and dancing! (Available on

Netflix. Rated PG-13.) Discussion: Saturday, May 9, 7PM

Next week: Family Movie! **HUGO**

Martin Scorsese's charming fable about a young orphan who lives in

a Paris train station. When he befriends an elderly magician, he discovers a fascinating history. (Available on Netflix. Rated PG.)

Discussion: TBD



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 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 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 your first and last name when joining worship or a program on Zoom. We suggest creating a free account with Zoom; then your name will be filled in automatically when you join a meeting.



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

UPDATE FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

We have made good progress in coming up with an exemplary slate of candidates for election at the upcoming Annual Meeting. But we would like to ask the congregation's help in suggesting candidates for Finance Head, which is an appointed volunteer position and a member of the Administrative Team. Although our Committee deals primarily with elected positions, we can try to assist the Board with suggestions for appointed positions as well. Please contact either George Harrison or Sue Royer with your ideas. Thank you.

GREAT IDEAS DISCUSSION FRIDAY, 11:00 AM - NOON LETTING GO



This week, on a trip for "essentials," Don and I saw a woman outside of her home clearly holding a yard sale...or perhaps a yard "give away."

In this COVID time of betwixt and between, what are you letting go of and what are you holding on to?

For you, in what ways is this a time to, as Marie Kondo suggests, discard what does not spark joy?

In what ways is this a time to let go of where you are not and embrace where you are? In what ways is this a time to stop reliving the past or make plans for the future (with so much uncertainty) and "simply" be present? 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> --- Rev. Clare

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 ID: 852 724 691 Zoom Meeting address is:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/852724691?pwd=TnFiUS9NZXVTbkNXbFk3MDVUdTBtQT09>

Important: An email will be sent out in the near future with the password. You will need it to enter the meeting. The password should remain the same for every future meeting.

WOMEN'S REFLECTION GROUP

The Women's Reflection group meets virtually on the first and third Tuesday's of the month at 7:30pm. New members are welcome. Contact Jane D'Ambrogio for the Zoom meeting information.

**Watch TUUC website
for updated information!**
www.towsonuuc.org

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP HAPPY HOUR, SATURDAY, MAY 9, AT 4 PM.

The group will have a happy hour chat in virtual space. 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.

LET'S CELEBRATE 20 YEARS!

Thank you to all who made possible the beautiful service on April 26, honoring Rev. Clare's twenty years of serving as TUUC's Minister! We are still accepting donations for gifts for Rev. Clare. 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. Stay tuned for the reveal.

CALL FOR ATTENDEES – PROGRAM COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING Wednesday, May 13 at 7:30 via Zoom

The Program Council will meet via Zoom. An agenda will be emailed in advance. Break-out rooms have been enabled, so we'll plan to break into groups for a discussion topic. Interested TUUC members and friends are welcome to participate.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82745467516>

Meeting ID: 827 4546 7516

Password: 821583

Or dial in: 301-715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID: 827 4546 7516 and Password: 821583

E-MAIL SPOOFING AND PHISHING

It appears that someone (or a group of

people) are trolling Unitarian Universalist websites looking for the names, e-mail addresses, and photographs of leaders in congregations to create fake e-mail accounts (called spoofing) and, if anyone responds, to try to elicit money (called phishing.) On May 2, someone did so with a photograph of me from the TUUC website. They also incorporated my legitimate church e-mail address into a fake Gmail account. Please know that neither I nor any TUUC lay leader would ever ask you for a personal financial favor. Also, I do not sign my e-mails with "God bless." Should you receive such an e-mail, ostensibly from me, or another TUUC leader, please don't click on any links. Just discard it. Then, please let me know so that I may alert authorities who are empowered to stop these scams. ---Rev. Clare

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE - FEEDING THE HUNGRY

For more than 30 years the generous TUUC community has been supporting Our Daily Bread with casseroles in months that have a 5th Saturday. May, 2020 has a 5th Saturday, but in these COVID-19 times our support needs to be different. ODB is still serving 300-400 people daily a hot lunch Monday - Friday in individual containers and sandwiches on Saturdays and Sundays. If dropping off a casserole at Our Daily Bread at 725 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202 doesn't work for you, please consider mailing a check to ODB at the above address. They can purchase food to share with the many hungry people in need in these difficult time.

Thanks for all you do to help others. May we be back together by July 31, 2020, the next fifth Saturday.

CLARE'S COLLOQUY

What does it mean to be a people of Thresholds? This is our spiritual question for the month of May.

A Unitarian Universalist curriculum for young children once explored the meaning of home ---from our first home of the womb to our final home of the tomb (or the place where we will be entombed or choose to have our ashes scattered.)

I was reminded of this curriculum watching Anderson Cooper share news of the birth of his son, Wyatt Morgan. He'd chosen the name Wyatt for his father who had died when he was ten and the name Morgan for his late mother's family tree. And there it was: the journey from beginnings to endings to new beginnings; crossing from grief to gladness.

I was reminded of this curriculum listening as someone shared that a relative had just died of Covid. At the same time, a younger member of the family had just given birth. And there it was: the wheel of life turning from grief to joy.

I was reminded of this curriculum listening as people shared among themselves, on Zoom, that they were in the midst of planting their gardens. They were clearing away that seeds might be planted and plants might take root. And there it was: the original meaning of thresholds: to separate the seed from the harvested plant that life might continue.

I was reminded of this curriculum thinking about two upcoming holidays. On Mother's Day, we celebrate those who gave us life and/or nurtured our lives on Mother's Day. On Memorial Day, we honor those who sacrificed their lives that we might have freedom and peace.

I was reminded of this curriculum sitting in my literal home. I had just looked at the Maryland Department of Health website reporting rising number of cases of Covid and the 74 overnight deaths in Maryland. I clicked onto Facebook and saw an wondrous photograph Linda Talley had posted of baby birds in a nest.

What does it mean for you to be a person of Thresholds this month?

WENDELL FINNER APPOINTED TREASURER



The Board is pleased to announce that Wendell Finner has been appointed to serve on the Board and as TUUC Treasurer, effective May 1. The Nominating Committee had identified

Wendell during their work. Since the Treasurer's position was vacant, and Wendell is willing, the Board voted to approve Wendell to start serving this month.

Wendell's bio:

Wendell Finner (They / Them / Theirs) began attending TUUC, and singing in the choir, in 2016, then became a member the following year. They have been active in UU churches for more than 45 years and have previously been a member of First Unitarian Church of Baltimore and the Unitarian Fellowship of Newark, Delaware. In addition to the TUUC choir, Wendell has served on our Ministerial Intern Committee and been active with the

Social Action Committee. They have served on the board of a community activist organization and of an organization that operates a clubhouse for AA and Alanon members, both in Florida. Since 1997 they have owned and managed a law firm that helps consumers with debt and collection issues.

MUSIC

THANK YOU, DISILLUSIONMENT

On Sunday, May 17th, the Sunday service on Zoom will be a Special Music Sunday! We'll be exploring the feelings of being "on the fringes," how we cope with challenges, and

of transitions to perceiving the world in new ways--all woven together with words and music of diverse styles. Many individual musicians of the TUUC community will be presenting music, and we'll all sing together, despite being on "mute"!



Soul Matters Morning

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY,
8:30-8:45AM

TAKE A MOMENT TO CENTER
AND GROUND YOUR DAY WITH MUSIC,
SPIRITUAL PRACTICE, AND CONNECTION
VIA ZOOM WITH LORA POWELL-HANEY

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION BY JOYCE DUNCAN, DRE

Many of us are experiencing grief and loss of the threshold events that we would be marking at this time of year. There are almost too many of these to even mention, from graduating from Kindergarten to First grade, or Fifth grade to middle school, to events such as high school graduation and senior bridging. Parents and teachers mourn the canceled proms, concerts, plays, ball games, and other end of year events. The wonderful Sunday service to which so many contributed brought back many warm memories of YRE with Audrey Azzam and Beth Moseng, allaying some of my feelings of loss at not having an in-person celebration.

Other thresholds that we would have liked to celebrate in person include honoring TUUC's Our Whole Lives middle school class, who had not quite completed their program. The 4th-6th grade class was just about to start when TUUC shifted to on-line programming. Because the UUA strongly recommended only holding OWL classes in person, both of these will continue when we can meet in person.

The Youth Religious Exploration Committee will be discussing how to move forward with another of our key offerings, the Coming of Age program, a cornerstone of our youth ministry program. Participants review UU principles, sources, and history and then write and present their credo statements at a final ceremony. We were, and still are, excited about using a new curriculum put out by the UUA, including the mentoring component that would help us become a more connected community by pairing teens with adult mentors. Fortuitously, we were already strongly considering a weekend

retreat model, which would give us more scheduling flexibility in these uncertain times.

We are also on the threshold of summer as the church/school draws to a close. How will this summer be different from previous summers at TUUC? For one thing, we will probably continue to offer Zoom meetings for our older classes, as long as teachers/advisors and participants enjoy seeing each other's faces while sharing experiences of this time and thought-provoking discussion.

The largest threshold we face is the new world we will be entering whenever social distancing guidelines end. Can we as a congregation learn to use virtual meetings and social media in many forms to enhance our church offerings to be more welcoming to those who are disabled, older, or younger? What will we as a larger society have learned from this time of enforced isolation, for example, about our needs for rest, for meditation, for connection, for paid sick leave and universal health care? I know TUUC will be addressing all these questions.

I offer these words from Teresa Honey Youngblood, Family Ministry Coordinator from Soulful Home (part of the Soul Matters team): Blessings of warmth and wandering to you this spring, dear families. May your months of diligence and duty drape lightly over your shoulders as you move again from one reality to another, over the thresholds between fear and grief and healing and wellbeing. However yet ahead of us that doorway may be, know that you travel with a family of faith before, behind, and all around you, all of us bearing this passage together into the hopeful unknown.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

9 May	Saturday	Singles Fellowship Group	Contact Ron Rowley for info	4:00 PM
10 May	Sunday	Sunday Service & Coffee Hour	Check email for login information	10:30 AM
10 May	Sunday	Social Action Committee Mtg	https://us04web.zoom.us/j/852724691?pwd=TnFiUS9NZXVTbkNXbFk3MDVudTBTQT09	12:00 PM
11 May	Monday	Soul Matters Mornings	https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2267305075?pwd=a1VscDB0di800TBIQTi0bWxJZE40dz09	8:30 AM
11 May	Monday	Vesper Services	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/696348175	7:00 PM
11 May	Monday	Membership Committee Mtg	TBD	7:30 PM
12 May	Tuesday	Virtual Coffee & Tea w/Rev.	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/467202356	12:00 PM
12 May	Tuesday	Soul Matters Sharing Circle	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/341125887	7:30 PM
13 May	Wednesday	Soul Matters Mornings	https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2267305075?pwd=a1VscDB0di800TBIQTi0bWxJZE40dz09	8:30 AM
13 May	Wednesday	Al-Anon Meeting	Contact : Stanley Andrzejewski	7:00 PM
13 May	Wednesday	Program Council Meeting	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82745467516	7:30 PM
14 May	Thursday	Virtual Coffee & Tea w/Rev.	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/629474885	4:00 PM
14 May	Thursday	Zoom Rehearsals	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/859624039	6:00 PM
14 May	Thursday	Virtual Choir Rehearsal	Email music@towsonuuc.org for info	7:30 PM
15 May	Friday	Soul Matters Mornings	https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2267305075?pwd=a1VscDB0di800TBIQTi0bWxJZE40dz09	8:30 AM
15 May	Friday	Great Ideas Discussion Group	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/666875374	11:00 AM
16 May	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	TUUC campus	9:00 AM

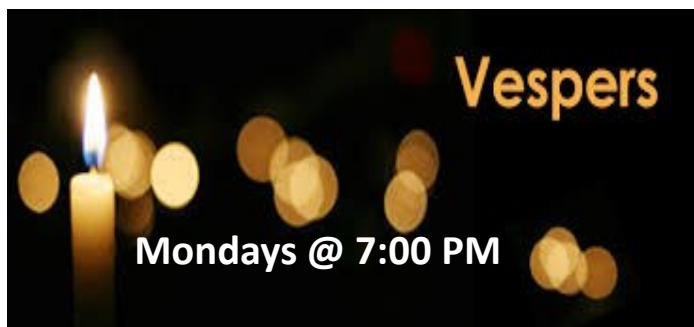
ZOOM SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE REPORT

(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

Date	Time	Adults/Children
05/03/2020	10:30 AM	139

Watch TUUC website
for updated information!

www.towsonuuc.org



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.



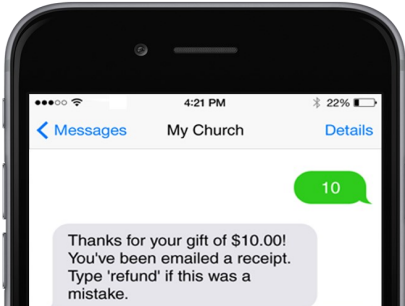
Command	Description
\$50	Donates \$50 to TUUC. Users can type any amount; the dollar sign is optional (e.g. \$50 and 50 both work).
give \$50	Same as above.
give	Your text giving number will respond asking "how much you'd like to give".
Here are our customized fund keywords:	
\$50 plate	Donates \$50 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.

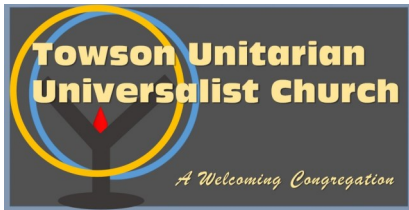
DONATE BY TEXT

Send an amount to
(410)834-0700

Fund Names:

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





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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

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Church Administrator:

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