

The Threshold

Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church

A Welcoming Congregation

What does it mean to be a people of Compassion?

June 14, 2020 - 10:30 AM Rev. Clare L. Petersberger, Joyce Duncan: How To Greet A Flower-Flower Communion

On the last Sunday of the formal church year,

member of his congregation to bring a flower

The Rev. Dr. Norbert Capek invited each

representing themselves. The flowers were collected into a beautiful bouquet symbolizing community. At the end of the ceremony, everyone took home a flower brought by another. Although we cannot gather in person this year, you are invited to send me, by June 10th, a picture of yourself or your family with flowers (revclare@towsonuuc.org) and words about the photo (where it was taken; who planted the seeds; what the flowers mean to you this year, etc.) Photos taken horizontally translate best for a slideshow.) And you are invited to bring a flower into your home for our annual Flower Communion Ceremony: from a wildflower in the yard to your own drawing of a flower. We shall create a virtual bouquet and reflect on our flowers, our compassion, and our community.

NEED HELP WITH ZOOM?

Contact zoommtgs@towsonuuc.org

YRE—FAMILY GATHERING

The King Who Listened is a very old story from Iceland that shows the power of compassionate listening, as one man who was harmed by his brother is healed by a friend. We hope you can find time to watch the short family gathering provided as YouTube video that you can access in this link: https://youtu.be/7ncVTWfpk28

VESPER SERVICES

TUUC continues to hold 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/91309340540?
pwd=K0FsdDdCZEY2cmU2ZXBRc2hQZnp4QT09

Meeting ID: 913 0934 0540

Password: 343650

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS AT TUUC

CABIN FEVER

Join our online movie group for weekly discussions.

Email <u>churchoffice@towsonuuc.org</u> to be added to our mailing list and receive Zoom meeting information.

This Week—WHAT HAPPENED, MISS SIMONE?

This eye-opening documentary sheds light on the life and career of the legendary Nina Simone. (Available on Netflix. Rated TV-14.) Trailer: https://youtu.be/DeevW_zYojY Discussion: Saturday, June 13, 4PM.

Next Week—DA 5 BLOODS

Academy Award-winner Spike Lee directs this epic film about four Black veterans who return to Vietnam to recover the remains of their friend—and the treasure they buried during the war.

(Available on Netflix June 12. Rated R.) Trailer: https://youtu.be/D5RDTPfsLAI Read this great article: linked here. Discussion: Saturday, June 20, 4PM.

GREAT IDEAS DISCUSSION FRIDAY, 11:00 AM - NOON THE BARDO



For many of us this is a time of transition: the world as we know is past, perhaps forever and the future is as yet unknown. We have had many transitions in our lifetime: from childhood to adulthood, from student to worker---just to name a few. How have we experienced such transitions in the past and how are we experiencing this current transition? This period of transition is similar to liminal time and also, in Buddhist terms, the bardo.

Today, we will explore the idea of the

bardo. Art Starr will facilitate our discussion based on short readings.

All are welcome to attend this stand-alone discussion. Here is the link: https://uuma.zoom.us/j/91361246584

Singles Fellowship Group Happy Hour Saturday, June 13, 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.

DONATIONS FOR ACTC

The Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC) has a need for strong and energetic volunteers to help carry boxes and bags of canned goods during two-hour shifts on Wednesdays or Saturdays. They also need people with trucks to help move food from one location to another. If you are interested, please logon to the ACTC website and click on "participate."

Items needed for the pantry: Canned foodmeat, Pasta meals, Baked beans, Fruit, Tuna, Tomatoes, Spaghetti sauce, Chili, Dried Foods -Rice, Pasta, Mac and Cheese, Potatoes, Peanut butter and Jelly.

Donations may be taken to Ascension Lutheran Church on Monday 12-2PM. Trinity Episcopal Church on Thursday 12-2PM and Valley Baptist Church on Thursday 5-7 PM

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS AT TUUC

BUILDING USE PROCEDURE DURING COVID

At this time the Church Building at TUUC remains closed to help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. However, in keeping with our current understanding of safe gathering practices and state and local regulations outdoor spaces on the grounds may be used in a limited capacity. If your group wishes to use an outdoor space for an event or activity, please see these procedures.

We will continue to have virtual worship services and the building will remain closed through the end of August.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING THIS MONTH WILL BE JUNE 21ST

Because of the Congregational Meeting June 14, the Social Action Committee will meet this month on the following Sunday, June 21st.

June 28 - 10:00 AM - SUNDAY WORSHIP TUUC GOES TO THE UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Why is this Sunday different from all other Sundays ever at TUUC? Because you are invited to join thousands of Unitarian Universalists in virtual space for Sunday morning worship for the 2020 Unitarian Universalist General Assembly. This worship service will NOT be on Zoom. It will be live streamed from a link on this website: https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2020/sunday-worship

The Reverend Joan Javier-Duval will deliver the sermon. She currently serves as Minister of the Unitarian Church of Montpelier, VT. The Rev. Mykal O'Neal Slack is worship leader. He is currently the Community Minister for Worship and Spiritual Care for

Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism, an organization and growing spiritual community committed to supporting Black folx in our faith, and a co-founder of the Transforming Hearts Collective, a ministry that both supports spaces for LGBTQ people to access resilience, healing, and spirituality and resources faith communities and other groups for the work of radical inclusion and culture shift. Benjie Messer is the music director at the 2020 General Assembly Sunday Morning Worship. He currently serves at the UU Congregation of Phoenix and has just completed the UUA's Music Leadership Certification Program. In the spirit of life-lines, let us join Unitarian Universalists from around the country and the world for this 10 a.m. Sunday morning worship service.

ETHNIC LUNCH ON HIATUS

June 17 should be the day that Ethnic Lunch would be going to Daniela, the Sardinian restaurant many of us enjoyed a couple of years ago. Visiting restaurants is still an activity few of us want to try. Hopefully we will go to Daniela sometime in 2021. Meanwhile for those of you who want to try a Sardinian dish, below is an easy recipe for Sardinian spaghetti. I think it is the fennel and saffron that makes this dish evocative of Sardinian food. Ethnic Lunch always takes a break in the summer. Janet Kuperstein and I will continue to monitor the situation and will report back in August about the possibility of resuming Ethnic Lunch sometime in the fall. Stav safe and well! — Claudia Sumler

SARDINIAN SPAGHETTI FROM FOOD NETWORK

Ingredients:

1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil

1 1/2 pounds sweet Italian fennel sausage, cut into 1-inch pieces

2 28-ounce cans whole peeled tomatoes, drained, seeded and halved, with 1/2 cup juice reserved

2 cloves garlic, sliced

2 bay leaves

1/2 teaspoon fennel seeds

1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes

1/2 teaspoon saffron threads

1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley

1 1/2 cups fresh basil leaves, torn

Kosher salt

3/4 pound spaghetti

1 cup shredded pecorino cheese

Directions:

Heat the oil in a large heavy skillet over medium heat. Add the sausage and cook, stirring occasionally, until brown, about 7 minutes. Push to one side of the skillet and increase the heat to high. Add the tomatoes, stirring to break them up a bit, and cook until the edges brown and the oil turns red, about 6 minutes. Stir the sausage and tomatoes together.

Add the garlic, bay leaves, fennel seeds and red pepper flakes to the skillet, then scatter the saffron over the mixture. Cook, stirring, about 2 minutes. Add the parsley, 1 cup basil and 1 teaspoon salt. Reduce the heat to medium and cook, stirring occasionally,

about 15 minutes.

Remove and discard the bay leaves.

Meanwhile, cook the spaghetti in a large pot of salted boiling water until al dente. Drain, reserving 1/2 cup pasta water. Add the spaghetti, cooking liquid and reserved tomato juice to the sausage sauce and toss, about 3 minutes. Top with the pecorino and the remaining 1/2 cup basil.

Annual
Congregational
Meeting
Sunday, June 14
Zoom at 12 noon
Voting on
officers,
a budget,
and proposed
bylaws changes.



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.



CALL TO THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church will be held on Sunday, June 14, 2020, at 12 noon via Zoom. There are three items requiring a congregational vote:

The election of officers

Approval of the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021

Proposed Bylaw changes

All are encouraged to attend; however, only members can vote. Members are requested to sign into the Zoom meeting waiting room at 11:45 am.

The Zoom information for the meeting is: https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93333134234
Meeting ID: 933 3313 4234

Password: 373857

Or join by phone by dialing any of these numbers: 301-715-8592 or 312-626-6799 or 646-558-8656 or 346-248-7799 or 669-900-9128 or 253-215-8782

Meeting ID: 933 3313 4234 Password: 373857

Thank you, Neil C. Porter, President

The Call to the Annual Congregational Meeting Packet was sent to all members via Breeze email from Neil Porter on May 29 and contains the following attachments:

Agenda
Nominating Slate
Proposed Budget for 2020 – 2021
Budget Memo
Proposed Bylaws Changes



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING
SUNDAY, JUNE 14
ZOOM AT 12 NOON

Voting on officers, a budget, and proposed bylaws changes.



PROCEDURES FOR THE TUUC ANNUAL MEETING ON JUNE 14

We will be conducting our church's annual meeting on June 14 over Zoom. There will be a team of technical people and lay leaders set-up as Zoom co-hosts who will facilitate the meeting.

- Everyone will be muted upon entry and you will be able to unmute yourself
- Please wait to be recognized before speaking
- You are encouraged to keep your camera/video on so that we can see each other
- Voting will be conducted using the Polling feature of Zoom. We will explain the voting during the meeting. Polls will be set up so that two members on the same device can both vote. Those dialing in by phone, or on Chromebook computers will be invited to give their vote verbally. Co-hosts will vote using the Yes/No function inside Zoom. Only members may vote. If you are unsure if you are a Member, please contact membership@towsonuuc.org.
- We'll start with a meeting covenant
- The proposed rules of procedure include that we will vote on the proposed bylaws changes article by article, and separately, that we will not accept amendments to the bylaws from the floor. This requires a 2/3 majority. The Rev. David Pyle recommended that proposed changes to bylaws not be altered during the congregational meeting, but that they be presented for an up or down vote.

Discussion on each motion:

- Alternate between someone in favor, then someone opposed
- Participants indicate interest in speaking by using the Yes or No function inside Zoom, and wait to be recognized. Start by stating your name; if you are in favor or opposed to the matter under discussion, please state so before going on to speak.
- Two technical Ushers will keep track of who wants to speak and inform the Moderator.
- We will alternate in this fashion: Yes, No, Yes, No, then verbally asking if there is a phone or Chromebook participant who wishes to speak (or other person not able to signal the yes or no), then repeat.
- Participants are requested to limit time speaking to 2 minutes per person per topic
- Everyone should have an opportunity to speak before anyone speaks twice
- We encourage allowing all who have questions or comments to speak before closing discussion by calling the question.

The meeting will be recorded to aid our Board Secretary in keeping an accurate record of the business decisions. We intend to end the meeting by 2 pm or shortly thereafter, even if we have not completed all of the business on the agenda. We ask for your patience as we work through any issues that may arise during the meeting. Thank you!

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES — OUR PROCESS

The first step in updating our bylaws in support of our governance change was to jettison the Operations Team. Those changes were approved at a congregational meeting on October 27, 2019. The Board appointed a Bylaws Committee that same month with the following members serving:

Karyn Marsh and Art Starr, both Trustees-at-Large Dan Alper, former Trustee-at-Large and member of the Governance Task Force Herb Shankroff and Linda Talley, both past TUUC Presidents

The Bylaws Committee met regularly and reviewed our existing bylaws, suggested changes from Rev. David Pyle, who performed a governance assessment for TUUC in 2016-17, and the bylaws of other UU churches. As each article was reviewed and proposed changes were drafted, the changes went to the Board for discussion. Sometimes additional changes were made. Then each article was sent to members of the congregation for review and feedback.

Article Two – Purpose – proposed changes sent 2/21/20

Article Three – Membership – proposed changes sent 2/21/20

Article Four – Congregation and Cong. Meetings – proposed changes sent 5/21/20

Article Five – Board of Trustees – proposed changes sent 5/21/20

Article Seven – Committees – proposed changes sent 4/1/20

Article Nine – Fiscal Provisions – proposed changes sent 4/1/20

Each email invited comments or feedback via email by a specific date.

The Board conducted a listening session on April 19 at 1 pm via Zoom. In addition to Board members and Bylaws Committee members, seven people attended. Feedback received during that listening session was incorporated into the final proposed version of the bylaws changes that was sent on 5/29/20.

We look forward to any further discussion and voting on these changes at our congregational meeting on June 14 at 12 noon.

CLARE'S COLLOQUY

About five weeks ago, two mourning doves began building a nest outside one of our windows. This annual ritual of preparing for new life felt so reassuring in the midst of a pandemic.

Shortly after, on a Saturday afternoon, terrible caws announced impending doom. Grey feathers of a morning dove flew up in front of the window as a large crow

descended. The terrible caws continued. When I walked outside, the nest, which I do not believe had any eggs in it, was in bits and pieces. Following this violence and destruction, the mourning doves did not return to rebuild at our house. Absence became the greatest presence. The calls of the mourning doves could be heard further down the block.

But then, just over two weeks ago, I noticed the mother mourning dove sitting on a nest slightly away from where the first one was begun at our home. They had returned to build their second nest at our house.

When the news repeatedly showed the horror of the murder of George Floyd in broad daylight by someone sworn to protect the public, I went to look at the mother bird protecting her eggs. When the news showed images of shouting and the streets of America burning, I listened as the mourning dove parents cooed to each other about feeding their hungry babies. When the reports came from clergy of being pelted with rubber bullets and sprayed with tear gas in Lafayette Square during a peaceful protest just so the President could have a photo op holding a Bible, my mind flashed back to the descent of the crows. I went to check on the nest. The head of one parent bobbed up and down while the other parent sat watch for any outside threats.

The mourning doves have reminded me of what we are called to do as people of faith: build, nurture, protect, feed, work together, rebuild when necessary, and partner all for the sake of the most vulnerable. Birds may not have a sense of justice, but we humans do. In the words of the banners at TUUC: Black Lives Matter.

I am grateful for TUUC's public commitment to racial justice. As the mourning dove fledglings take flight, my hope is that we will continue to lift our voices, lend a listening ear, write letters, speak up and out, offer financial support, partner with others and with other organizations, and contribute in whatever ways we can to bending the moral arc of the universe towards racial justice and creating a better future together.

TUUC COVID CARE FUND

At its meeting on May 20, the TUUC Board voted to establish a TUUC COVID Care Fund for up to two years for the purpose of helping TUUC members who are in financial distress due to this pandemic. Those who are able to contribute will help members going through tough times to feel the love and support of TUUC.

So if you are able to donate to our newly established TUUC COVID Care Fund, please let our Bookkeeper know that your contribution is for the TUUC COVID Care Fund. Also, please know that no contribution may be designated for the benefit of a particular recipient.

If you are in need of financial assistance, please speak with me. All requests will be kept confidential.

—Rev. Clare

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly, the annual gathering of UUs to worship, vote, and do the work of our denomination, was planned to be held in Providence, RI this year. It has been switched to a 100% virtual event from June 24 through 28. There is a registration fee of \$150 and there are opportunities for scholarships from the UUA, as well as volunteer opportunities for those with technical skills. Registered participants will have access to the GA Virtual Participation Portal, which combines multiple modes of participant engagement that include chat, Q&A, and polling. Registrants are able to watch and ask questions in live sessions including workshops and business sessions. Delegates are also be able to propose amendments in the live business sessions, participate in debates, and vote in general sessions. Some sessions will be streamed for all to view, without paying a registration fee.



The link to register for General Assembly is here: https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/registrants.

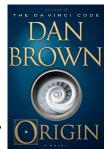
If you are planning to attend General
Assembly and would be interested in
representing TUUC by serving as one of our
delegates, please contact the church office or
Karyn Marsh at

membership@towsonuuc.org by May 31.

JULY/AUGUST BOOK CLUB

July 1-7:30pm zoom meeting Origin by Dan Brown, 2017 (461 pages)

In keeping with his trademark style, Dan Brown, author of The Da Vinci Code and Inferno, interweaves codes, science,



religion, history, art, and architecture into this new novel. *Origin* thrusts Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon into the dangerous intersection of humankind's two most enduring questions, and the earthshaking discovery that will answer them.

TUUC Book Group Zoom Meeting
Jul 1, 2020 08:30 PM Eastern Time (US)

https://zoom.us/j/95275841639? pwd=Y2dWRHgwQTl0cDFzSVpuK1pTVUdXZz09

Meeting ID: 952 7584 1639

Password: 7gkXAb

August 5-7:30pm BOOK CLUB

The Dutch House by Ann
Patchett, 2019 (337 pages)
The novel follows a brother and sister who grow up in a fairy tale—a huge house, a loving father, and a caring staff. The



only thing that's missing is their mother. When their father dies and leaves his fortune to their stepmother, the kids are left to fend for themselves, going on to live a drastically different life than they had imagined. The house of their youth haunts them through adulthood, and revenge is their desire—but not in the way you imagine.

*Please note that these titles can be reserved with your library card for download in either book format or audiobook through your local public library via Overdrive or the Cloud Library. If you need assistance with this, you can contact your public library's online Ask a Librarian or Ask Us Now service.

All are welcome. Contact Jane Selewach (info in the Breeze) if you have any questions.





WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

13 June	Saturday	Singles Fellowship Group	Contact Ronald Rowley for info	4:00 PM
13 June	Saturday	Sing-A-Long w/Spice	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89451938552? pwd=enZ5VHlyTnpFSDM3Q2NrdVE0dloxQT09	7:30 PM
14 June	Sunday	Sunday Service	See private email	10:30 AM
14 June	Sunday	Annual Congregational Mtg	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93333134234	11:45 AM
15 June	Monday	Vespers Services	https://uuma.zoom.us/i/91309340540? pwd=K0FsdDdCZEY2cmU2ZXBRc2hQZnp4QT09	7:00 PM
16 June	Tuesday	Coffee with Minister	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95459183516	12:00 PM
16 June	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	Contact Jane D'Ambrogi for Zoom info	7:30 PM
17 June	Wednesday	Al-Anon Meeting	See website calendar for contact information	7:00 PM
17 June	Wednesday	Board Meeting	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94126555400	7:30 PM
18 June	Thursday	Zoom Rehearsal	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/859624039	6:00 PM
20 June	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	Contact Todd Robertson for details	9:00 AM
21 June	Sunday	Sunday Service w/UUA GA	https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2020/sunday-worship	10:00 AM
21 June	Sunday	Roots & Wings—Litha	https://us04web.zoom.us/i/2267305075? pwd=ZUhqc3ZsMGZIMG51a0FidGFFTWVpZz09	4:00 PM
22 June	Monday	Vespers Service	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/91309340540? pwd=K0FsdDdCZEY2cmU2ZXBRc2hQZnp4QT09	7:00 PM
24 June	Wednesday	Al-Anon Meeting	See website calendar for contact information	7:00 PM
25 June	Thursday	Zoom Rehearsals	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/859624039	6:00 PM

ZOOM SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE REPORT

(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

Date	Time	Adults/Children
06/7/20	10:30 AM	109

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 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.

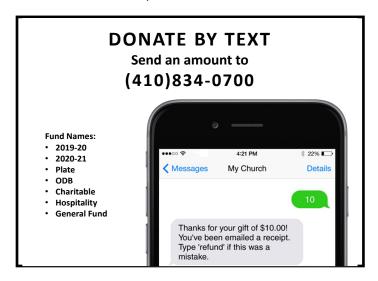
See examples in the grid.

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.			

Thank you for your support!



1710 Dulaney Valley Road Lutherville MD 21093-9705 Phone: 410-825-6045 Email: churchoffice@towsonuuc.org Website: www.towsonuuc.org



Minister

Reverend Clare L. Petersberger <u>revclare@towsonuuc.orq</u>

Leadership

Board of Trustees:

President: Neil Porter (2019-2020) President-Elect: Sue Royer (2019-2020) Treasurer: Wendell Finner (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

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