

The Threshold

Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church

A Welcoming Congregation

What does it mean to be a people of Lifelines?

July 5, 2020 - 10:30 AM

Lay Worship Associates: *The Lifeline of Passing Experience*

Some of our greatest relationships have come from a seasoned expert guiding us through hard times and new experiences. From a boss or coworker showing us the ropes of a new job, to teachers and tutors expanding our skill sets, to family and friends guiding us through life in general. All of these relationships have helped shape who and what we are. Come join us as we explore the value and meaning within mentorships.

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

We enjoyed catching up with each while walking the tree-shaded paths of Cromwell Valley Park last Saturday while the air was still cool. We met a toad that jump on the foot of one of the walkers and later found many green frogs in a small pond. We also learned about the lime kilns that have been restored in the last few years. We hope to offer

another hike/creek walk later in the summer, either at Cromwell Valley or possibly a different park. Hope you can join us for the next one.

If there is a family event that you would like to see happen either virtually or safely outside, please contact Joyce at tuucdre@towsonuuc.org. I would love to discuss any suggestions and find a date to make an event happen.

RE PLAYDATES IN JULY

Your child is invited to join Miss Zinnia for stories, movement, and fun on Thursday, July 2 and July 23. We miss seeing your children and hope they would like to see us and some of their friends via Zoom. These meetings will be short and sweet and will continue in August we hope. All ages are welcome but these will be geared for Kindergarten through fourth graders.

Thank you for your support!

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 [by writing COVID Care in the memo line](#). 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

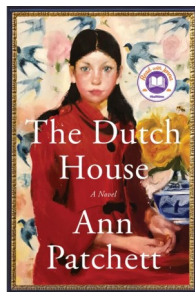
AUGUST BOOK CLUB

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.

MUSIC FOR SUNDAY SERVICES ON ZOOM

Hope everyone is enjoying your summer. We are still looking for a few musicians to help with Sunday services this summer on Zoom. In case you haven't presented music on Zoom before, there is a rehearsal for each service on the Thursday evening before your Sunday, and you can get help with Zoom settings to enhance your sound as well. Some of the musicians will need to help coordinate information for slides, and some can just show up and sing or play. Please contact Music Director Tracy Hall at music@towsonuuc.org if you would like to help out in any way with music this summer!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

"Working with the American Red Cross, we've scheduled Thursday, August 6th, 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 August 6th, if you are healthy and have no concerns about donating.

NEW INFO: The Red Cross is testing all donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The antibody test is authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and will indicate if the donor's immune system has

produced antibodies to the coronavirus, regardless of whether they developed symptoms. **This test is not to diagnose current COVID-19 symptoms**, referred to as a diagnostic test. [Click here](#) to learn more about the COVID-19 Antibody testing.

To sign up for an appointment time between 10:00am-4:00pm please use this link [Click Here to Schedule Your Lifesaving Blood Donation at Towson Unitarian Universalist Church](#) OR email Clare Flynn-Avallone with your preferred times. Give the Gift of Life - Give Blood!"

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Twenty flowers signifying twenty years of service Rev. Clare has given to TUUC. This is the gift given to her for her loyalty to the TUUC and greater community. You might be thinking, just flowers? These are special flowers. A special minister's stole was commissioned and created especially for Rev. Clare by Lauren Furey of Newport News, VA and was delivered to her home via USPS this past week.

Each flower symbolic of beauty, love, compassion, dedication, humility, empathy, integrity, kindness, passion, vision, perseverance, mentorship, encouragement, trustworthiness, competence, sympathy, self-awareness, courage and the list goes on. The many qualities of the minister of TUUC wrapped neatly in a stole of joy!



Kai Aiyetoro, Church Administrator



EMAIL SCAM

Unfortunately this week, we have been plagued again with email and text scams all under the name of Rev. Clare. **PLEASE BE AWARE THAT REV. CLARE NEVER MAKES SOLICITATION REQUESTS VIA EMAIL OR TEXT.**

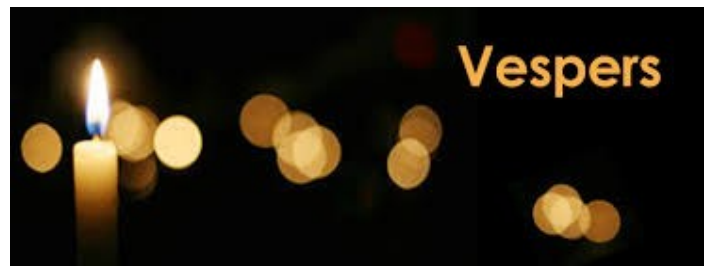
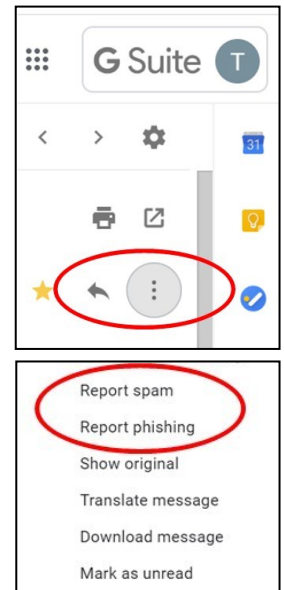
Should you receive such request, REPORT TO GOOGLE—Here's how to do it.

On a computer, go to your [Gmail](#) email account.

1. Open the message.
2. Next to Reply ↩, click More ⋮.

Note: If you're using classic Gmail, click the Down arrow ▾.

3. Click **Report phishing**.
4. Report each time this happens so Google can take action.



VESPERS SERVICES

Monday Vespers will be on summer break until September. We are looking for people to help host them. If you are interested, please contact Karyn Marsh whose information is in Breeze.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXTRAORDINARY GIFT!

On the afternoon of June 29, on a Zoom call with TUUC President, Sue Royer, and TUUC Chair of the Committee on Ministries, Karen Fireman, and Church Administrator, Kai Aiyetoro, I had the pleasure of opening a box. This box contained a gift from TUUC in honor of my twenty years serving as your minister. I shook the box and determined, from the weight, that it could not be a chalice or a book.

Inside, there was a card. It read:

"Dear Rev. Clare,

First of all, let me say congratulations on your 20 years at Towson UU Church. I looked at many photos both on the website and Facebook and you are obviously well loved!

I hope you love your commemorative stole. I decided to create 20 different flowers to each represent a year. Some years need fiddly care, some are a bit fruity, some are weedy and all are loved. So there is a mix of the same kinds of flowers.

The Sunflower is a sort of stylized chalice. There are also Dogwoods, Petunias, Dandelions, Iris, Purple coneflower, Bleeding Heart, Lilies of the Valley, Daisy Poppies, pansies, Bee Balm, Marigolds, Queen Anne's Lace, Hydrangea, Daffodils, Trumpet Honeysuckle, Lilac, Blackberries, and a Rose. There's also a hummingbird making an appearance....

Please find a coordinating mask!"

It was signed by the artist, Lauren T. Furey.

The stole is truly a work of art!. The sunflower contains Jen Larson's chalice design.

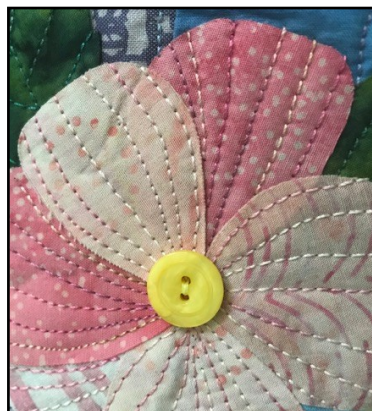
The 20 flowers include my favorite flowers. Some, like the sunflower, daffodils, lilies of the valley, and blackberries, are three dimensional! The hummingbird sparkles.... literally!

The stole is colorful, personal, and perfect! And the coordinating mask contains words such as spirituality, tranquility, peace, understanding, and love.

Thank you for this amazing stole! I am so touched and profoundly grateful for your thoughtful and beautiful gift! I cannot wait to show you the stole in person and wear it for a great occasion at TUUC!!!!!!

For now, the photos below will need to suffice.

With deepest appreciation and with love, Rev. Clare



VIRTUAL PROGRAMS AT TUUC

SUMMER SMALL GROUP MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY (NEW DATES!)

You are invited to join MaryBeth Brizzolara and Joyce Duncan in a small group exploration of healing. We plan to meet on the following Tuesday nights: July 14 and July 28 from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. We hope you can join us for both sessions. Please respond to Joyce at tuucdre@towsonuuc.org by July 7 if you would like to join us. (These dates do not conflict with the Women's Reflection group.) We look forward to seeing you!

CALL FOR ATTENDEES – PROGRAM COUNCIL MEETING

By Andrew Hager, President-Elect and Convener of the Program Council

Wednesday, July 8 at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

All committee chairs are invited to participate. If you are the chair of a committee and cannot attend, please send a representative. The purpose of the Program Council is to support and forward TUUC's mission and vision by offering programming. During this meeting, we will:

- Have a spotlight on the progress of the Sunday Morning Structure Task Force
- Break into groups to brain storm on specific topics
- Make each other aware of upcoming programs already planned by committees or groups for the next three months

Interested TUUC members and friends are welcome to participate. We look forward to seeing you!

FIGHTING GLOBAL WARMING

Does the thought of global warming make you wring your hands and feel helpless? Though it is a huge challenge, don't be discouraged. You **can** be an agent for change.

A group of us are meeting monthly to discuss actions that anyone can take to personally make a difference in our own lives and/or with friends and relatives. Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 14 at 5:30 PM on Zoom**. We'll discuss "alternatives to plastics", with participants describing products and resources now available, as well as their experiences with them. If you would like to actively participate or just listen and learn, please join us as we delve into this and other climate change topics. To get more information or join the email list to receive information for this or future meetings, please contact Bobbie Miyasaki (info. in Breeze). Being on this contact list will also give you access to the list of resources for combating global warming that our group is compiling.

Carel Hedlund & Bobbie Miyasaki

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.

CONVERSATIONS ON TUUC IN VIRTUAL SPACE

Back in the winter (which seems a lifetime ago,) we held conversations on the structure of our communal life together on Sunday

morning. Since going into virtual space in mid-March, we are now seeking feedback on our virtual programming as it pertains to our Worship, Youth Religious Exploration, Adult Religious Exploration offerings, as well as other possible virtual programming to sustain and deepen our sense of community. The information received will be used for two purposes:

- 1) To develop virtual programs for the coming church year;
- 2) To develop, in conjunction with the feedback received in the winter, a survey for how we will organize ourselves in our brick and mortar building (when it is truly safe for all to gather again) as well as in virtual space.

We need and welcome your participation in one of three possible meetings in July.

July 12 at 1 p.m. on Zoom <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99894302004>

July 13 at 7 p.m. on Zoom <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99791576707>

July 26 at 1 p.m. there will be a conference call through Zoom for those who do not have access to video or a microphone. The questions will be identical to those asked the previous two meetings---but with the understanding that we will be talking on the phone. Dial +1 301 715 8592 and when prompted for the meeting ID 913 7005 5804.

We very much look forward to your input on ways to sustain and deepen our communal life in virtual space. ---Rev. Clare, The Committee on Ministries, and the Sunday Morning Structure Task Force.



DENOMINATIONAL MINUTE JULY 3, 2020: GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020

The Unitarian Universalist Association held its first all virtual General Assembly Wednesday June 24 through Sunday June 28. The theme was “Rooted, Inspired and Ready”. More than 4800 UU's registered and everything that happens at a face to face GA happened at this one. There were business sessions to discuss and vote on a number of issues, most of which were procedural. Delegates heard the long awaited report of the Commission on Institutional Change. However, they declined at this GA to endorse or accept any of the Commission's recommendation.

There were dozens of workshops, some attended by as many as 600 registrants. And there were the usual worship services including the Opening Celebration, Service of The Living Tradition, and Sunday Morning Worship. Those in attendance at the Sunday Morning worship service posted hundreds of compliments after. Besides an outstanding sermon and other spoken words, there was a virtual choir of 150 voices. These events and some others are still available for viewing by anyone, Links can be found at www.uua.org/ga/2020. The Sunday morning worship service can be found at <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2020/sunday-worship> If you would like separate videos of the two pieces the virtual choir sang, email me finnerstephen@gmail.com

(Denominational Minute con't)

Besides Rev. Clare, TUUC's delegates were Sue Royer, Karyn Marsh, and Steve Finner. Also attending was Nancy Caswell. They will all be sharing their thoughts on the GA experience in this column in the weeks to come.

Next year's General Assembly is scheduled for Milwaukee June 23-27. There has been some discussion, based on his year's success, to alternate face to face with all virtual GA's. The face to face GA's will continue to have virtual business sessions and other on line events as has been the practice the past few years.

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>

PayPal Contributions

You may use PayPal to pay your pledge to treasurer@towsonuuc.org. To avoid additional fees, send your contribution to the setting "family and friends" and please note the purpose of your donation in the message area.

Mail Contributions

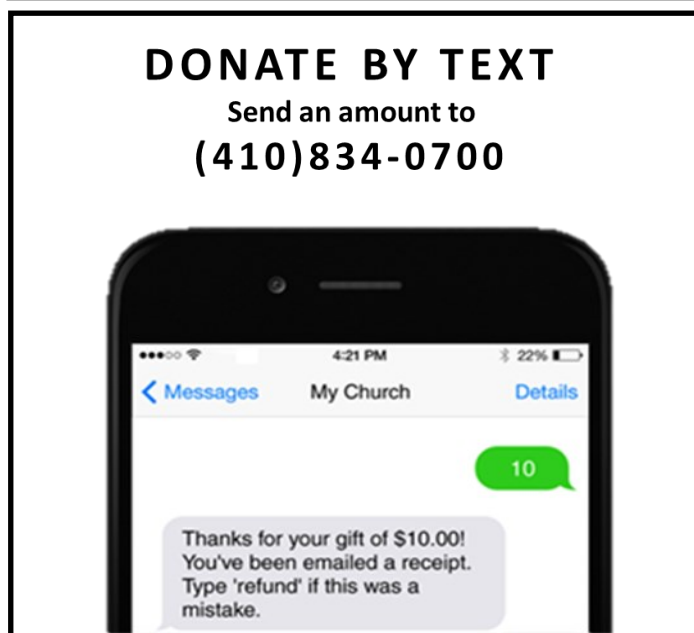
You may still mail checks to the church. Mail is checked weekly.

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 NEW examples below:](#)

The screenshot shows a 'Text to Give Settings' interface with five rows of options. Each row includes an 'amount+' field, a dropdown menu for the campaign name, and an example text command. The options are: 2019-20 (2019-2020 Stewardship Cam), 2020-21 (2020-2021 Stewardship Cam), ODB (ODB Casseroles), GreenPro (Green Products), and SAC (Social Action Collection).

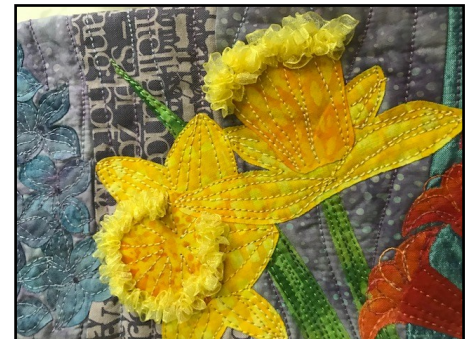
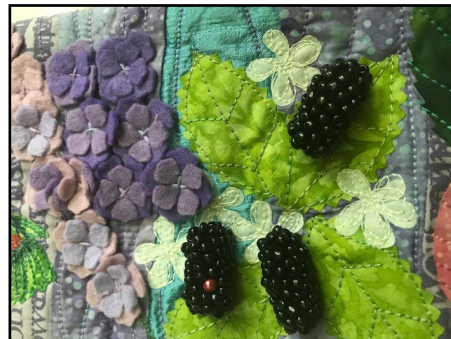


WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

5 July	Sunday	Sunday Service	See email	10:30 AM
7 July	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	Contact Jane D'Ambrogi for Zoom info	7:30 PM
8 July	Wednesday	Program Council Meeting	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/91461366260	7:30 PM
12 July	Sunday	Sunday Service	See email	10:30 AM
12 July	Sunday	Conversation on TUUC Virtual Space	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99894302004	1:00 PM
14 July	Tuesday	Conversation on TUUC Virtual Space	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96956260650	7:30 PM
21 July	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	Contact Jane D'Ambrogi for Zoom Info	7:30 PM
23 July	Thursday	RE Play Date	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87365325553?pwd=UTFGNldQOE05Uk90cjc2UnFvb1lScz09	7:00 PM
25 July	Saturday	Happy Hour	Contact Ronald Rowley for Zoom Info	4:00 PM

MORE CLOSE-UP PHOTOS OF THE MINISTER'S STOLE.



ZOOM SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE REPORT

(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

Date	Time	Adults/Children
6/29/20	10:00 AM	UUA GA

Watch TUUC website
for updated information!

www.towsonuuc.org

Face coverings required.
Please keep 6 ft apart.



Non-medical masks, bandanas, scarves,
and cloth can be used.



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



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.



Minister

Reverend Clare L. Petersberger
revclare@towsonuuc.org

Leadership

Board of Trustees:

President: Sue Royer (2020-2021)
President-Elect: Andrew Hager (2020-2021)
Treasurer: Wendell Finner (2019-2021)
Secretary: Susan Riggs (2020-2022)

Trustees-at-Large:

John Mattingly (2019-2021)
Samantha Saalfield (2019-2021)
Angela Castillo-Epps (2020-2022)
Patty Barry (2020-2022)

Administrative Team

Head of Staff: Rev. Clare Petersberger
Finance: Vacant
House and Grounds: Todd Robertson
Church Administrator: Kai Aiyetoro

Program Committee

Convener: Andrew Hager
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