

# The Threshold

**Towson Unitarian  
Universalist Church**

*A Welcoming Congregation*

## What does it mean to be a people of Lifelines?

**July 12, 2020 - 10:30 AM**

**Dominic Hall, Lay Worship Associates:  
*Lines of Our Lives***

2020 and the Coronavirus pandemic have fundamentally changed our daily lives. Even minor annoyances like standing in line have become isolating and unfamiliar. How can we fortify ourselves and acknowledge shifts beyond our control?

### **YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION**

YRE programming continued in June and early July with a hike at Cromwell Valley and a Zoom get-together for younger kids. Please save the date Saturday, July 18, for another hike lead by Lisa Barnett and Karen Fireman. The second YRE Playdate lead by Zinnia Epps will offer kids fun through community, stories, and movement on Thursday, July 23, at 7 pm. More details and Zoom info will be in parent emails and on the TUUC church calendar.

Also coming up, parents are invited to join us on 9 pm on Thursday, July 23, for a Parent

group meeting for discussion and getting to know each other. We look forward to sharing what led each of us to choose Unitarian Universalism for your family.

Save the date Sunday, July 26, at 4 pm for a Family RE Outdoor Experience in the Thoreau Meadow at TUUC.

### **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 5—7:30 PM Zoom meeting**  
**Zoom information regarding connection to the meeting forthcoming**

**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



**September 2—7:30 PM Zoom meeting**  
**Zoom information regarding connection to the meeting forthcoming**

**Olive, Again by Elizabeth Strout, 2019**

**304 pages**

A sequel to the Pulitzer Prize Winning Olive Kitteridge finds Olive struggling to understand herself while bonding with a teen suffering from loss, a woman gives birth unexpectedly, a nurse harboring a longtime crush and a lawyer who resists an unwanted inheritance.



\*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.

**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

**COFFEE WITH THE MINISTER/GREAT IDEAS**

No further "Coffee With The Minister" or "Great Ideas" sessions are scheduled for July. However, I look forward to hearing your ideas for future virtual programming during the conversation at 1 p.m. on July 12 or at 7

p.m. on July 13. Some ideas have included a virtual writing workshop; ongoing virtual study and discussion of race in America; and an occasional virtual talent show.

---Rev. Clare

### **CABIN FEVER**

Join our online movie group for weekly discussions. Email [churchoffice@towsonuuc.org](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org) to be added to our mailing list and receive Zoom meeting information.

### **This Week—BLOW THE MAN DOWN**

A feminist noir film set in Maine, described as “FARGO with lobsters.” Two sisters need to dispose of a body, and to evade detection they must enter their small town’s criminal underbelly. (Available on Amazon Prime. Rated R.)

Trailer: [https://youtu.be/uWM1U\\_kd0rE](https://youtu.be/uWM1U_kd0rE)

Discussion: Saturday, July 11, 4PM.

### **Next Week—PAN’S LABYRINTH**

Ofelia is forced to move to a rural outpost where her fascist stepfather is battling leftist rebels during the Spanish Civil War. There, she meets a faun who offers her a chance to rule an underground kingdom if she can complete a series of trials. A captivating fairy tale. (Available on Netflix. Rated R.)

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/bOROR5Qm-Y4>

Discussion: Saturday, July 18, 4 PM.

### **GARDENING AT AMAZING GRACE**

To fulfill our partnership with Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in East Baltimore, a number of us assist with their community food garden, labyrinth and rain garden. Generally, we go for a few hours on the 2nd or 4th Saturday of the month - July 11th and/or

25th. Please bring your own water, favorite garden tool, gloves and mask. If you would like to join this effort, please contact Carel Hedlund (info in Breeze).

### **SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

The Social Action Committee will meet the 2nd Sun. of the month, on July 12, at noon, following the Service. Zoom meeting details will be sent to members of the committee.

### **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.

### **ASSISTANCE CENTER OF TOWSON CHURCHES**

ACTC needs donations of canned and dried foods and peanut butter. Donations may be taken to Ascension Lutheran Church on Mondays from 12 to 2 PM, Trinity Episcopal Church from 12 to 2 PM on Thursdays and Valley Baptist Church 5 to 7 PM on Thursdays.

### **SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP HAPPY HOUR Saturday, July 25, 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.





## 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](mailto: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!

### **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*

### **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.

### **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.

## **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](http://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](mailto:finnerstephen@gmail.com)

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.



## SPECIAL THANKS!!! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Many times, things just don't happen the way they are supposed to, but we make it happen anyway! The long-awaited chairs are now in the meeting room at TUUC, thanks to the support of these dedicated congregants and staff: Tom Farrell, Joyce Duncan, Emma Balkoski, Darla Tewell, Fred Sypher, and Dick Scholle. Even though these volunteers were scheduled to come assist between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm, they dropped what they were doing and scurried right over when the truck came at 10:00 am!!! So this is a special "THANK YOU!" to those who made it happen.

What's next? Keep an eye out for an email from the church office regarding the plaques so donors can verify the engraving to be ordered soon. When all are verified, they will be ordered.

Once the engraved plaques arrive, another call out will be made to a few creative people to assist with the installation of the plaques. Slowly but surely, this project will be completed some time soon this year.—Kai Aiyetoro





July 2, 2020

Rev. Clare Petersberger  
Towson Unitarian Universalist Church  
1710 Dulaney Valley Road  
Lutherville, Maryland 21093

Dear Rev. Clare and Friends,

Years ago, I had a plaque that said, "A family is a circle of friends that love you."


As we live through the worry of the Coronavirus, the sadness of lives violently taken, and the financial instability for so many, the support of you and others in the community makes a real difference. **Thanks for being a part of our family.**

Jonathan signed a lease and moved recently. In his exit interview he said, "You stayed on me and at first I didn't like it, but then I realized it was for me." Now he has joined the growing group of Visionaries and is another example to the men here and the community that supportive housing and hard work are the key to success for so many.

I look forward to the day when we can see each other in person again. In the meantime, on those days when things feel like a little too much, your notes, kind words, and generosity mean so much. I hope that in some small way your involvement with us brings you joy as well.

Thank you for your recent donation of \$800.00 it will make a real difference. Together, we are changing lives.

Sincerely,



Sheila Helgerson

*Cornerstone Community Housing did not provide any goods or services in exchange for this contribution. Cornerstone Community Housing, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization – donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting Cornerstone Community Housing at 1400 E. Lombard Street Baltimore, Maryland 21231 or 410-522-0225. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of the State for the cost of copying and postage.*

*Thanks to everyone  
for your support -  
it means so much  
to all of us!*

Earl's Place  
1400 E. Lombard St.,  
Baltimore, MD 21231

Prospect Place  
8720 Philadelphia Rd.  
Baltimore, MD 21237

410-522-0225  
info@CCHBaltimore.org  
CCHBaltimore.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>

## PayPal Contributions

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

### 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](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org).



## Mail Contributions

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

## How to text your contribution or pledge

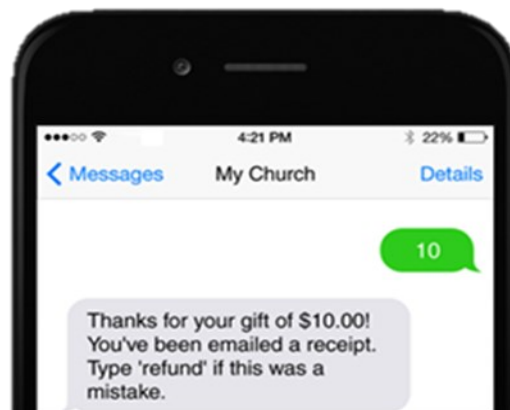
Send a text to: 410-834-0700 and indicate where you want your contribution to go by entering one of the commands to get your contribution to the right fund. [See NEW examples below:](#)

Text to Give Settings	
amount + 2019-20	2019-2020 Stewardship Cam   v ⓘ ex: text "\$50 2019-20" to give to 2019-2020 Stewardship Campaign
amount + 2020-21	2020-2021 Stewardship Cam   v ⓘ ex: text "\$50 2020-21" to give to 2020-2021 Stewardship Campaign
amount + ODB	ODB Casseroles   v ⓘ ex: text "\$50 ODB" to give to ODB Casseroles
amount + GreenPro	Green Products   v ⓘ ex: text "\$50 GreenProducts" to give to Green Products
amount + SAC	Social Action Collection   v ⓘ ex: text "\$50 SAC" to give to Social Action Collection

**Thank you for your support!**

## DONATE BY TEXT

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



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

9 July	Thursday	Rehearsal for Sunday Service	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84331700574?pwd=V1o4VmFFQnBHaWFFekFwWlIGZVc5dz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84331700574?pwd=V1o4VmFFQnBHaWFFekFwWlIGZVc5dz09</a>	6:00 PM
12 July	Sunday	Sunday Service	See email	10:30 AM
12 July	Sunday	Social Action Committee	Zoom meeting details sent to members	12:00 PM
12 July	Sunday	Conversation on TUUC Virtual Space	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99894302004">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99894302004</a>	1:00 PM
13 July	Monday	Conversation on TUUC Virtual Space	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99791576707">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99791576707</a>	7:30 PM
14 July	Tuesday	Fighting Global Warming	Contact Bobbie Miyasaki for Zoom info.	5:30 PM
15 July	Wednesday	TUUC Board Meeting	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96450829649">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96450829649</a>	7:30 PM
16 July	Thursday	Rehearsal for Sunday Service	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84331700574?pwd=V1o4VmFFQnBHaWFFekFwWlIGZVc5dz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84331700574?pwd=V1o4VmFFQnBHaWFFekFwWlIGZVc5dz09</a>	6:00 PM
21 July	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	Contact Jane D'Ambrogio for Zoom Info	7:30 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
7/5/2020	10:30 AM	71

Watch TUUC website  
for updated information!

[www.towsonuuc.org](http://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](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org)  
Website: [www.towsonuuc.org](http://www.towsonuuc.org)



## Minister

Reverend Clare L. Petersberger  
[revclare@towsonuuc.org](mailto: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](mailto:tuucdre@towsonuuc.org)

Music Director:

Tracy Hall  
[music@towsonuuc.org](mailto:music@towsonuuc.org)

Church Administrator:

Kai Aiyetoro  
[churchoffice@towsonuuc.org](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org)

Bookkeeper:

Raly Baltchev  
[bookkeeper@towsonuuc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@towsonuuc.org)