

## The Threshold

Towson Unitarian  
Universalist Church

*A Welcoming Congregation*

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

**July 19, 2020 - 10:30 AM**

**Stephen Finner, Lay Worship Associates:**  
***If There Is No Hereafter, then Where Am I Going?***

In September of 2016, my partner of 14 years, Barbara Skirry, passed after a long period of illness. Among other things, I had primary responsibility for her memorial service which meant balancing the differing theologies of family members as well as my understanding of her beliefs. The experience led me to some thoughts about memorial services for UU's and also to some thoughts about life. The topic notwithstanding, this will not be a grim presentation, for "in death there's life and life in death shall dwell." (Sedrick A. Goldbeck).

#### **YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION**

##### **Outdoor Fun**

Does splashing around in cool water sound good? If these hot humid days have been keeping you inside, please consider joining Lisa Barnett and Karen Fireman at Doublerock

Park for a cool walk in the stream that runs through this park on Saturday, July 18 at 2:00 pm. Please wear water shoes or old sneakers and bring a mask and water. Here is a link for more information: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/maryland/double-rock-park-trail> You can print out a map to the park for hiking also. Please contact Lisa Barnett ([misslisa@comcast.net](mailto:misslisa@comcast.net)) or Karen Fireman ([krn.fireman@gmail.com](mailto:krn.fireman@gmail.com)) for more information.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Thursday, July 23 at 7:00 pm  
Second YRE playdate with Miss Zinnia (Zoom)
- Thursday, July 23 at 9:00 pm  
Parent group meeting (Zoom)
- Sunday, July 26 at 4:00 pm  
RE Family Experience in Thoreau Meadow at TUUC

#### **OWL 7th-9th grades**

Check your parent email for details on how we plan to finish the sessions of OWL this

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS AT TUUC

summer outside at TUUC starting on Sunday, August 9.

### Plans for Fall

The Youth Religious Exploration Committee has been discussing how to best meet the needs of our children and families while staying safe. Our tentative plan is to have virtual meetings for elementary age children between 9 and 10 am on Sunday mornings. The 7th-9th grade and YRUU will meet from noon to one pm. We have lead teachers identified for all groups but, to meet our safe congregations' policies, we need adult volunteers to join teaching teams. We hope to supplement the virtual class experience with other online special events, such as game nights or talent shows, and in person events, such as hikes or experiences on TUUC grounds, for those families who are looking for safe physically distanced ways to connect. We are very excited to have engaging curricula for all ages. Look for information on curricula for each age group in upcoming Threshold articles.

### POETRY SERVICE, AUGUST 2

We are looking for readers for TUUC's annual poetry service. Because we will be virtual this year, we are asking readers to film themselves reading original or beloved poetry. That's right—this year, you can read poetry from your sofa, or in a beautiful forest, or while dressed as a character from the poem! Be relaxed or be creative—just have fun! Send the clips to Andrew Hager at [AndrewW.Hager@gmail.com](mailto:AndrewW.Hager@gmail.com). Submissions are due by Monday, July 27.

### August 5—7:30 PM Zoom meeting

TUUC Book Group

Aug 5, 2020 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97873670770>

Meeting ID: 978 7367 0770

Password: 655771

### 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.

### **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 — 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.

### **Next Week — LENNY**

Dustin Hoffman stars in Bob Fosse's stylish, unflinching biopic of notorious stand-up comic Lenny Bruce. The film explores Bruce's rise to fame, his multiple trials for obscenity, and how the constant legal pressures fed his self-destructive behavior. (Available on

Amazon Prime. Rated R.)

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/TqvNOq8kGB8>

Discussion: Saturday, July 25, 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 — UTheVote**

UUs are building out a plan for **national Days of Action for UUs to phone voters** throughout the summer and fall. With your help we can activate 3 million voters and potential voters in Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and other focus states targeted by voter suppression tactics. With traditional door-to-door canvassing no longer viable in the age of COVID-19, phone banking is critical to our success.

Lois Hybl was not able to attend General Assembly, but she was intrigued by reading about UTheVote and signed up for phone banking on June 28. There was training at the beginning of the session on using the computer program to call people in Harris County, Texas, about absentee ballot opportunities and early voting. The nice thing about the program was that it automatically dialed people and did not connect you until there was either a person or voicemail on the line.

If you would like to participate, click [here](#), click on "Sign Up for the Next Phonebank" and fill in your contact information.

## **REV. CLARE ON VACATION**

Rev. Clare will be on vacation June 20—Aug 3. For a pastoral emergency, please contact the Church Office 410-825-6045 and leave a message. For other church matters, please contact our Church Administrator at [churchoffice@towsonuuc.org](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org) or our Board President at [president@towsonuuc.org](mailto:president@towsonuuc.org).

## **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.

## **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 this last meeting in July.

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.

### **OUT GOES THE OLD...IN COMES THE NEW!**

Say goodbye to most of the old chairs from the TUUC meeting room. A selected few have been retained to accommodate the choir. The remainder were donated to Villa Maria School located at 2300 Dulaney Valley Rd, Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093.

Villa Maria School (VMS) provides educational and clinical services for children with significant emotional, behavioral and learning challenges.

We are delighted to see these chairs going to good use to another nonprofit organization helping youth in this community.

**Don't Work Sick**  
**Don't School Sick**  
**Don't Church Sick**



## **DENOMINATIONAL MINUTE**

This week's brief denominational minute comes from the website of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland ([uulmmd.org](http://uulmmd.org)) and is followed by an announcement about the forthcoming Baltimore Cluster meeting. Starting next week our delegates and attendees at the recently concluded UUA General Assembly will share their experiences and thoughts.

### **2020 Elections Are Our Focus Now**

With the General Assembly adjourning early, UULM-MD has turned its attention to the upcoming elections. For more information, please refer to our [Democracy](#) pages.

In addition to our Teamup calendar for priority issues and general UULM-MD meetings and events, we are now displaying above it a calendar specific to the Democracy Task Force which shows all TF activities as well as significant electoral dates for Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

The Baltimore Cluster of UU Congregations, under the leadership of the two new co-chairs, Camille Loya (First Unitarian) and Maria Walburton (Cedarhurst) is meeting next Wednesday, July 22 from 7PM to 9PM. Also attending will be the new Central East Region Rev. Sana Saeed, who is liaison to TUUC. I may be attending but really would like to see other members of TUUC get involved. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments. —Stephen Finner

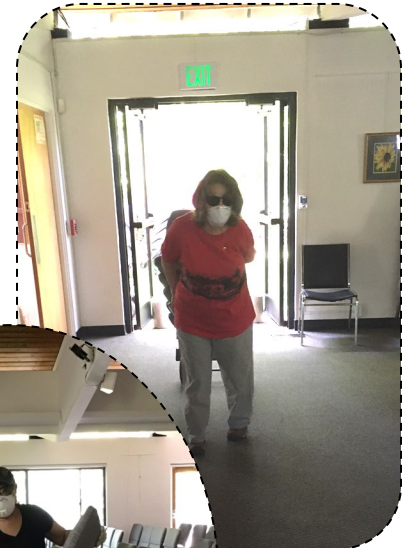


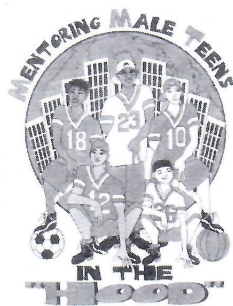
## SPECIAL THANKS!!! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

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





Cameron E. Miles, Director

July 2, 2020

Ms. Sue Royer  
Towson Unitarian Universalist Church  
1710 Dulaney Valley Road  
Lutherville, Maryland 21093-5903

Dear Ms. Royer:

On behalf of Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood, I just want to thank you and the entire Towson Unitarian Universalist Church for continuing to make consistent donations to support this work. You could very well be sending your donations to many different places but please know that I am humbled and thankful that you continue to choose this organization. Your donations are used wisely.

Our meetings are held on the first and third Saturday of each month 9:30 until 1:30 pm. We are now doing tutoring the first Saturday of each month. We are also tutoring on Monday and Tuesday evening from 5:30 pm until 8 pm. As of now, this takes place online through Google classrooms. We have started our 24th year and each first and third Saturday we have programming when things open back up.

During the third Saturday of each month, we bring in role models from different occupations so that our Kings can start thinking about what they want to do with their lives. Since we are dealing with the Corona Virus, each King will have to do a report regarding how the pandemic makes them feel. We are now doing Zoom meetings and I will continue to expose our Kings to powerful speakers, cultural enrichment trips, and many other activities. Thank you again and if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number listed. We continue to Invest in Boys and Build strong Men.

I hope that I can continue to depend on the churches support! I am grateful and appreciative that the church has decided to keep supporting this work financially.

Sincerely,

Cameron E. Miles, M.A.  
Director & Founder

**Mailing Address:**

P. O. Box 6756  
Columbia, Maryland 21045

**Meeting Address:**

New Shiloh Family Life Center (NSFLC)  
2100 North Monroe Street  
2nd Floor, Room 3  
Baltimore, Maryland 21217



## 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.

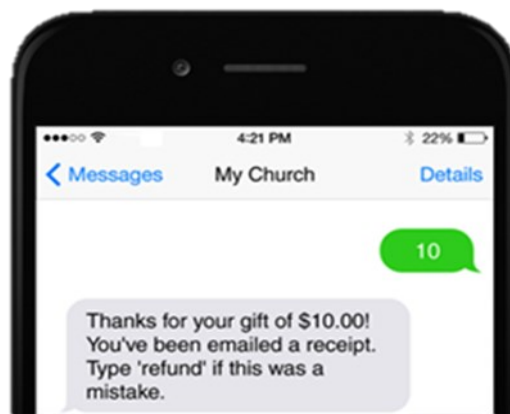
## How to text your contribution or pledge

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:](#)

<b>amount + 2019-20</b>	<b>2019-2020 Stewardship Campaign</b>
<i>ex: text "\$50 2019-20" to give to 2019-2020 Stewardship Campaign</i>	
<b>amount + 2020-21</b>	<b>2020-2021 Stewardship Campaign</b>
<i>ex: text "\$50 2020-21" to give to 2020-2021 Stewardship Campaign</i>	
<b>amount + ODB</b>	<b>ODB Casseroles</b>
<i>ex: text "\$50 ODB" to give to ODB Casseroles</i>	
<b>amount + GreenProducts</b>	<b>Green Products</b>
<i>ex: text "\$50 GreenProducts" to give to Green Products</i>	
<b>amount + SAC</b>	<b>Social Action Collection</b>
<i>ex: text "\$50 SAC" to give to Social Action Collection</i>	
<b>amount + Plate</b>	<b>Plate Collection</b>
<i>ex: text "\$50 Plate" to give to Plate Collection</i>	

## DONATE BY TEXT

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



**Thank you for your support!**



## 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.

19 July	Sunday	Sunday Service	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82154492139">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82154492139</a>	10:30 AM
21 July	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	Contact Jane D'Ambrogi for Zoom Information	7:30 PM
23 July	Thursday	Rehearsal for Sunday Worship	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84331700574?pwd=V1o4VmFFQnBHaWFFekFwWllGZVc5dz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84331700574?pwd=V1o4VmFFQnBHaWFFekFwWllGZVc5dz09</a>	6:00 PM
23 July	Thursday	RE Play Date	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87365325553?pwd=UTFGNldQOE05Uk90cjczUnFvb1lSdz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87365325553?pwd=UTFGNldQOE05Uk90cjczUnFvb1lSdz09</a>	7:00 PM
25 July	Saturday	Singles Fellowship	Contact Ron Rowley for Zoom Info	4:00 PM
26 July	Sunday	Sunday Service	Info to come	10:30 AM
26 July	Sunday	Conversation on TUUC in Virtual Space	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/91370055804">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/91370055804</a>	1:00 PM
30 July	Thursday	Rehearsal for Sunday Worship	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84331700574?pwd=V1o4VmFFQnBHaWFFekFwWllGZVc5dz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84331700574?pwd=V1o4VmFFQnBHaWFFekFwWllGZVc5dz09</a>	6:00 PM
1 Aug	Saturday	Committee on Ministries	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97480100316">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97480100316</a>	9:30 AM
2 Aug	Sunday	Sunday Service	Info to come	10:30 AM
4 Aug	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	Contact Jane D'Ambrogi for Zoom info	7:30 PM
5 Aug	Wednesday	TUUC Book Group	<a href="https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97873670770">https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97873670770</a>	7:30 PM
6 Aug	Thursday	Red Cross Blood Drive	Meeting Room and Lobby	8:30 AM

### ZOOM SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE REPORT

(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

Date	Time	Adults/Children
7/12/2020	10:30 AM	84

**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)