

The Threshold

**Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church**

A Welcoming Congregation

What does it mean to be a people of Lifelines?

July 26, 2020 - 10:30 AM

Karyn Marsh, Lay Worship Associates:

Connections as Lifelines

According to the Seventh Principle Unitarian Universalists covenant to affirm and promote “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” The word “web” is particularly apt in this principle because it illustrates our interconnectedness and how we need each other to survive. In today’s service, candidate for UU ministry, Karyn Marsh will reflect upon lifelines as the connections we have to one another and all of creation.

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

A small group of intrepid TUUCers met at Doublerock Park last Saturday to beat the heat by exploring the streams there. Stay tuned for details of the next hike in August, probably a Sunday afternoon at 2 pm, possibly at Jerusalem Mill, which is right on the Gunpowder River. Please get in touch if you have a park to suggest for a future hike.

We welcome all who enjoy being outside, please consider joining us!

This Thursday, July 23, your younger child is invited to join Miss Zinnia for another RE Playdate at 7 pm for stories, movement, and UU community. Parents with children of any age are invited to join a Parent Group meeting at 9 pm to share what brought them to choose Unitarian Universalism for their family and general discussion. Please see the TUUC calendar or parent email for Zoom information.

What would we do without trees for shade during these hot summer days? Join Trish Lott and me on Sunday, July 26 from 4 -5 pm, as we learn and honor our connection to trees and nature with our first outdoor Family RE Experience. Please see the parent email for more details and respond if you plan to attend to tuucdre@towsonuuc.org by Friday noon. We will postpone in case of high heat or storms.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS AT TUUC

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, July 23 7 pm Second YRE playdate with Miss Zinnia (Zoom)

Thursday, July 23 9 pm Parent group meeting (Zoom)

Sunday, July 26 4 pm RE Family Experience in Thoreau Meadow at TUUC

FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE

The Administrative Team has decided to make it easier for visitors to find their way to our virtual Sunday services, while still maintaining strong security measures to keep out those who might disrupt us.

Our Sunday services still require a password to enter and everyone starts in a waiting room. Everyone enters muted. Participants are not permitted to unmute or rename themselves. Participants may only chat with the host and co-hosts. The password is not embedded in the link to the meeting. The meeting ID changes every week.

In addition to emailing the meeting information to congregants and to repeat visitors, we are starting to include the Zoom meeting ID and password in the Threshold and on the church calendar. Both of these locations require humans to click several times from our church home page, making it less likely that bots will find the link. We will also create a public Facebook event, directing people to contact Zoommtg@towsonuuc.org to obtain the login information.

Please invite friends, family, and neighbors to join us for virtual worship!

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For Sunday, July 26, please join us at 10:15 am to be admitted prior to the service

starting at 10:30 am. We will have break-out rooms for coffee and conversation following the service.

Topic: TUUC Sunday Virtual Worship

Time: Jul 26, 2020 10:30 AM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81316931009>

Meeting ID: 813 1693 1009

Passcode: 339057

Or One tap mobile

+12678310333,,81316931009#,,,,,0#,,33905

7# US (Philadelphia)

Or Join by phone using any of these phone numbers:

646-558-8656 or 267-831-0333 or 301-715-8592 or 646-518-9805

Meeting ID: 813 1693 1009

Passcode: 339057

### 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.

### TUUC BOOK GROUP

#### August 5—7:30 PM Zoom meeting

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.

## **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—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.

### **Next Week—MONTY PYTHON’S LIFE OF BRIAN**

Some people are born in the right place at the right time. Brian is not one of them. Born in a manger just down the street from someone more famous, Brian grows up to become an accidental messiah for followers who find his every utterance profound, even as he tries to shun them. Absurd, juvenile, and yet somehow profound. (Available on Netflix. Rated R.)

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

Discussion: Saturday, August 1, 4 PM.

## **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).

### **ACTC UPDATE**

Donations are always needed for ACTC. There is a change in donation sites and times. Donations may be taken to:

1. Ascension Lutheran on Mondays 12-2 PM
2. Trinity Episcopal (in the school building) on Thursdays 12-2 PM
3. Valley Baptist Thursdays 5-6 PM (note new time)

### **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.

### **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.



### **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.

### **UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT BY SUE ROYER**

Over the next two months, each of us who attended the UUA 2020 General Assembly will provide a short report. After the UUA announced that the entire assembly would be online, I volunteered to be part of the technical team. My application was accepted, resulting in my conference registration fee being waived. I connected with other members of the “Tech Deck” team; we got to know each other on daily calls prior to GA. I got to see some of the behind the scenes workings of a big conference. I edited many PowerPoint slides and was the person showing the slides during some of the general business sessions.

Over 4000 people attended General Assembly. The theme was Rooted, Inspired, Ready. There were many programs that highlighted indigenous peoples and the impacts of colonialism. We accessed the conference through a web portal designed by the UUA staff; it worked quite well!

I will share a random list of ideas that came to me while attending workshops, general business sessions, worship services, and small group networking events:

- Start(ed) reading *Decolonizing Wealth: Indigenous Wisdom to Heal Divides and Restore Balance*, by Edgar Villaneuva
- Put half or all of our Endowment into

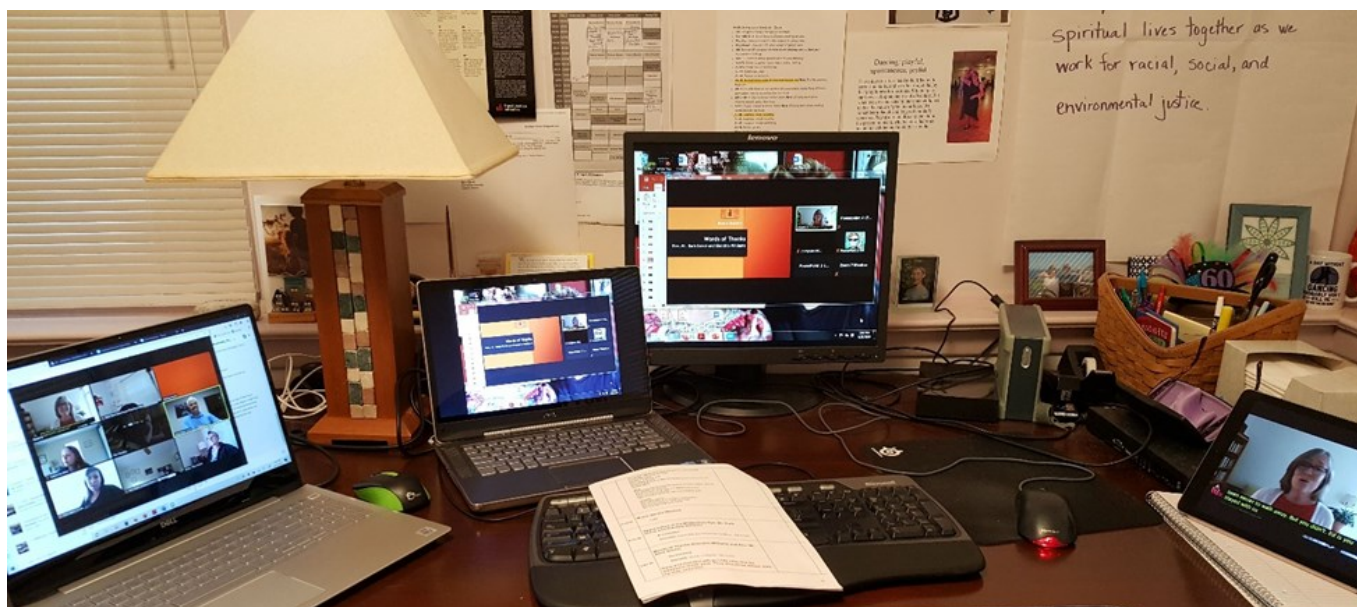
socially responsible investments

- Put Coming of Age graduates and definitely high school seniors who are graduating on our membership role so that they receive the Threshold and the UU World and stay connected to their faith community
- Have a youth member on Lay Worship Associates
- Move funds from the operating budget to supplement the plate percentage to go to our social action community partners during this time when plate intake is lower
- Buy small chalices for congregants to use at home
- Get used laptops and/or iPads for those who don't have devices at home
- Move away from Robert's Rules and toward circles/consensus for decision-making
- Use Restorative Circles for Right Relations
- Engender more trust in the Board to make

budget decisions so that we have the flexibility to be responsive

- Start work on discussing and adopting the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle
- Pay the registration fee out of the church budget for a person to attend GA – for a lay leader who has not previously attended
- Put the pride flag and trans flag on our website and our Facebook page
- Get our congregation more involved with UU the Vote
- Recognize the indigenous peoples who occupied the land that we now occupy - regularly, as we start services

These are all ideas, just ideas for now, except for the book that I have starting reading. Some of these ideas might turn into actions and some might not. You can see what inspired me from this year's General Assembly. Ask me about it. I'm rooted, inspired, and ready!



Sue's desk while working on the GA Tech Deck team: (L-to-R) computer logged into Zoom Room 8 – the control room for the broadcast to the portal, run by an external events management company, computer logged into Zoom Room 7 – where slides were pulled from, external monitor with presentation view, iPad with sound muted for watching the stream (which was delayed). On the keyboard is the printed show flow (from which the speakers never wavered – haha!).

## JUST A FEW TOKENS OF APPRECIATION FOR OUR PAST PRESIDENT—NEIL PORTER



Although we all could not present these gifts to Neil in person, we share this Zoom reveal to let you know, Neil was surprised and happy to receive this traditional Jefferson cup engraved with his dates in office along with a couple of his favorite personal items—a UUA Chalice neck tie and tie pin to match!



## 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.

|         |           |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                     |          |
|---------|-----------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 25 July | Saturday  | Singles Fellowship                    | Contact Ron Rowley for Zoom Info                                                                                                                                    | 4:00 PM  |
| 26 July | Sunday    | Sunday Service                        | <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81316931009">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81316931009</a>                                                                           | 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  |
| 26 July | Sunday    | Family RE Experience                  | Thoreau Meadow                                                                                                                                                      | 4:00 PM  |
| 30 July | Thursday  | Rehearsal for Sunday Worship          | <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84331700574?pwd=V1o4VmFFQnBHaWFFekFwWlIGZVc5dz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84331700574?pwd=V1o4VmFFQnBHaWFFekFwWlIGZVc5dz09</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  |
| 9 Aug   | Sunday    | Sunday Service                        | Info to come.                                                                                                                                                       | 10:30 AM |

### ZOOM SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE REPORT

(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

| Date      | Time     | Adults/Children |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|
| 7/19/2020 | 10:30 AM | 71              |

**Face coverings required.**  
Please keep 6 ft apart.



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

## 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.

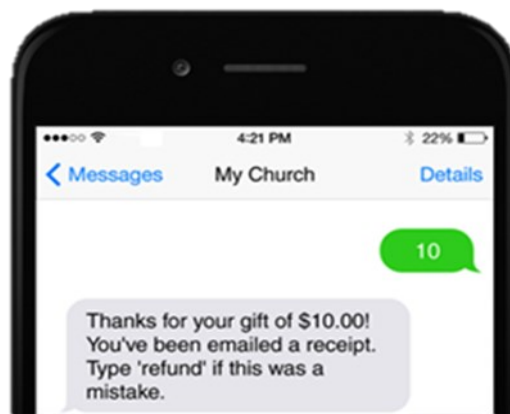
## How to text your contribution or pledge

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!**





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)