

**The
Threshold**

**Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church**

A Welcoming Congregation

What does it mean to be a people of Lifelines?

August 2, 2020 - 10:30 AM
 Andrew Hager, Lay Worship Associates:
The Poetry that Speaks to Us
 Members and friends of TUUC share their favorite poetry in our annual poetry service.

like. Please bring a mask, a water bottle, and possibly a beach towel to sit or lie on. (No bathrooms are available.) This 8-session series honors our connection to trees and helps us think about how we can protect trees and the web of life that we are part of. “To be poor and be without trees is to be the most starved human being in the world. To be poor and have trees is to be completely rich in ways that money can never buy.” Clarissa Pinkola Estes



OUTDOOR FAMILY RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Please join Joyce and Trish Lott on Sunday, August 16 from 4-5 pm for our second workshop affirming that stewardship of the earth is an explicit act of faith through story, games, movement, and meditation. The second session of Circle of Trees takes place in the picnic grove, which offers plenty of shade and picnic tables and benches, so no need to RSVP or bring camp chairs unless you

- Other Events Coming up**
 Saturday, August 8, 10 am
 Parent Group Zoom meeting
 Thursday, August 6 and August 20, 7 pm
 RE Playdate Zoom meeting
 Sunday, August 30, 2-4 pm
 Water walk at Jerusalem Mill

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

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS AT TUUC

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, August 2, please join us at 10:15 am to be admitted prior to the service starting at 10:30. We will have break-out rooms for coffee and conversation following the service.

Topic: TUUC Sunday Virtual Worship

Time: Aug 2, 2020 10:30 AM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84656567964>

Meeting ID: 846 5656 7964

Passcode: 468984

Or One tap mobile

+13017158592,,84656567964#,,,,,0#,,468984# US (Germantown)

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: 846 5656 7964

Passcode: 468984

### TUUC BOOK GROUP

#### August 5—7:30 PM Zoom meeting

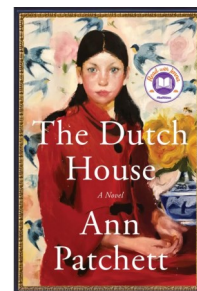
Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 978 7367 0770

Password: 655771



#### 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.

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 - 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.

### **Next Week - THE DEATH OF STALIN**

In this dark comedy from the creator of VEEP, Soviet bureaucrats scramble for power when the brutal dictator's health fails. Steve Buscemi is Nikita Khrushchev! (Available on Netflix. Rated R.)

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/kPpXFnHoC-0>

Discussion, Saturday, August 8, 4 PM.

## **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)

## **CONTINUING IN VIRTUAL SPACE**

The A-Team has decided that our church building will remain closed through December, unless there is significant improvement in reports from the Maryland Department of Health or a widely available safe vaccine. We are permitting small gatherings outside on the church grounds; reservations are required. Our outdoor use procedure is [here](#). Some of our virtual programs are taking a break during the summer. We look forward to seeing you for virtual Sunday service each week! Please check the church calendar for program information.

## **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!

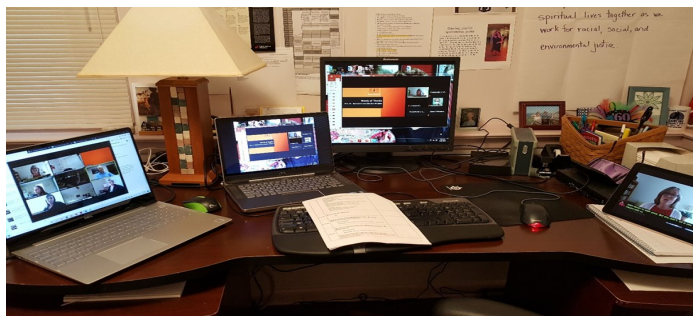
I will share a random list of ideas that came

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!).

Watch TUUC website  
for updated information!  
[www.towsonuuc.org](http://www.towsonuuc.org)

**ZOOM SUNDAY SERVICE  
ATTENDANCE REPORT**  
(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

| Date      | Time     | Adults/Children |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|
| 7/26/2020 | 10:30 AM | 70              |

## GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Are you tired of receiving junk mail and catalogs that you do not use? Does it seem wasteful to just toss it in the recycling bin? You can remove your name from those lists, save trees, and save energy.

Use [dmachoice.org](http://dmachoice.org) to remove your address from direct mail lists.

Opt out of catalog mailings with [catalogchoice.org](http://catalogchoice.org).

Use [optoutprescreen.com](http://optoutprescreen.com) to stop insurance and credit card offers.

Opt out of Valpak mailings here: [bit.ly/1Lf7YxG](http://bit.ly/1Lf7YxG).

In this time of the Covid virus, many of us have used the extra time around the house to sort through things and clean out items that are just taking up space. However, finding a place to donate them can be difficult. Baltimore County has just put out a booklet listing all sorts of charities, the items they accept, and how those items are used. This is a gem! Your old things get recycled and become someone else's treasures. However, call or check the websites to make sure the charity is accepting donations at this time.

[http://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/Public\\_Works/solidwastemanagement/reusedirectory.pdf](http://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/Public_Works/solidwastemanagement/reusedirectory.pdf)

## 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 necktie 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.

|       |           |                         |                                                                                     |          |
|-------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 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 |

## 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.

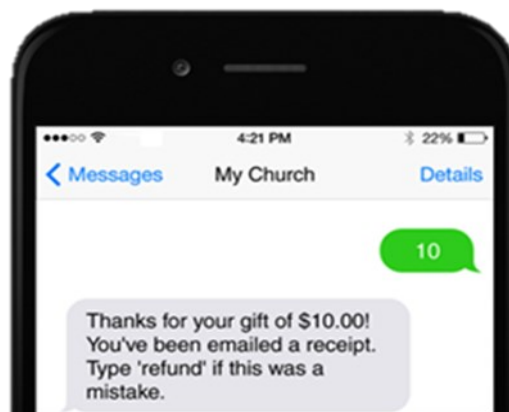
## How to text your contribution or pledge

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!**



**Towson Unitarian  
Universalist Church**

*A Welcoming Congregation*

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)



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

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



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

### 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)