

**The
Threshold**

**Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church**
A Welcoming Congregation

What does it mean to be a people of Lifelines?

August 9, 2020 - 10:30 AM

Andrew Hager, Lay Worship Associates: *We Go Home Singing*

In this service, Andrew Hager and Spice Kleinmann examine the impact of music on our lives—as entertainment, as unifier, and as lifeline.

OUTDOOR FAMILY RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Please join Joyce and Trish Lott on Sunday, August 16 from 4-5 pm for our second session of Circle of Trees that takes place in the picnic grove, which offers plenty of shade and picnic tables and benches. Please rsvp by Aug. 14 and 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.

Other Events:

Saturday, August 8, 10 am - Parent Group Zoom meeting

Sunday, August 9, 4:30 pm - Middle School OWL; see parent email for details

Thursday, August 6 and August 20, 7 pm - RE Playdate Zoom meeting

Sunday, August 30, 2-4 pm - Water walk at Jerusalem Mill

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.

AUGUST IS A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

When there is a fifth Sunday in a TUUC month the entire collection plate goes to a designated community partner. The Social Action Committee's featured community partner for August is *Out For Justice, Inc.*



OUT FOR JUSTICE

On fifth Sundays in the month, all non-pledge donations go to one of our congregation's Community or UU Partners. The August 30, 2020 fifth Sunday collection will be given to *Out for Justice*. **IF YOU ARE WRITING A (non-pledge) CHECK, PLEASE MAKE SURE TO WRITE "Fifth Sunday" or "SAC" ON THE MEMO LINE.** Thank you for your generosity.

Out For Justice is an organization dedicated to supporting and advocating for ex-offenders in Maryland. Since COVID Our For Justice has:

- Collaborated with partners to create and implement a reentry housing plan to be used in conjunction with our DMV Black Mama's Bail Out initiative.
- Collected monetary donations that have funded mutual aid items, rent support, bail, and home detention fees.
- Collected and distributed mutual aid items every Wednesdays to the larger community from 9-12 pm.
- Facilitated the bailout/ home detention release/ housing placement of at least 50 people thus far.
- Issued a statement to Gov. Larry Hogan concerning the expedited release of incarcerated citizens, with a special emphasis on releasing those individuals on detention who are already in work release/pre-release status, in spite of their crime.
- Created a space for incarcerated individuals and their community to voice their opinions and concerns regarding incarceration during this pandemic on the Stories Behind the Walls Livestream.
- Completed one radio ad educating the formerly and currently incarcerated on their right to vote which ran on 92Q.
- Partnered with JOTF and BALT for a Father's Day Bailout effort. All groups were located outside of central bookings to receive the fathers when they were released. The fathers received mutual aid bags, transportation, housing support, and access to enroll in Project Jump Start etc.
- Created three TV commercials informing Baltimore residents of their voting rights (to be aired on Fox 45 station) that include OFJ members and partners. Expenses for our voting work will be reimbursed by OSI.

Upcoming events and needs include:

- Census Resource Fair on August 29th from 12-3pm at 1400 E. Federal St. They'll have community resources, food, prizes, and people to assist with completing voter registration and the 2020 census.
- Laptop drive for bailed out citizens. They have promised each of the beneficiaries of their bailout a laptop. Laptops may be sent or delivered to Out For Justice, 1400 E. Federal St., Baltimore, MD 21213. Please make sure they have a clean install of Windows 10, No windows password should be set if it does have a password, please include the administrative BIOS and or windows passwords.

UPCOMING PROGRAM COUNCIL MEETING

The Program Council will hold its monthly meeting on August 12 at 7:30 PM. All are welcome to join us as we discuss upcoming programming at TUUC.

CABIN FEVER

Join our online movie group for weekly discussions.

Email churchoffice@towsonuuc.org to be added to our mailing list and receive Zoom meeting information.

This 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/kPpXFhHoC-0>

Discussion, Saturday, August 8, 4PM.

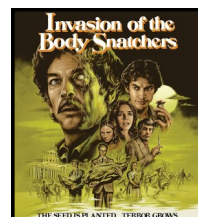


Next Week - INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS (1978)

In this tense science-fiction classic, an alien life form is taking over the bodies of unsuspecting Americans. What a timeless metaphor! Donald Sutherland stars. (Available on Amazon Prime. Rated PG.)

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/EOW7hiO2yqo>

Discussion: Saturday, August 15, 4 PM.



MEN'S REFLECTION GROUP meets on the first and third Tuesdays via Zoom from 7:30 – 9:00 pm. This group was established as a forum to share introspective contemplation of our thoughts or remembered experiences. It is open to new members. For information contact Art Starr, info in the Breeze online directory.

FROM YOUR MINISTER

August is traditionally a time to begin planning programming for the coming year. We anticipate being in virtual space, as a community, through much of the fall. So the focus of the Program Council meeting on August 12 will be to plan virtual programming. We received feedback in July that people are yearning for opportunities for connection on Sunday morning and during the week.

My heartfelt thanks to the TUUC Worship Associates for providing meaningful worship on the theme of life-lines this summer and to our Technical Ushers for supporting them. You have, each and all, been life-lines! In terms of programming during the week, Coffee With The Minister will return at noon on Tuesday beginning on August 18. This is an opportunity to gather and talk about what is on your mind and heart.

In addition, we will try a TUUC virtual “Happy Hour” at 5 p.m. on Friday, August 21. This is clearly BYOB! The real purpose is to gather at the beginning of the weekend to socialize.

Now is also a time to think about whether you would like to be part of a Soul Matters Sharing Circle that will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. You may expect a packet that invites you to choose one of four spiritual exercises to engage and provides readings; videos; and suggested music to help probe the theme of the spiritual theme of the month in more depth. And you may expect a community of thoughtful, caring, and committed participants. Our question for September is, “What does it mean to be a people of renewal?” Please enroll by e-mailing me at revclare@towsonuuc.org.

And speaking of spiritual practices, if you would be interested in a weekly, one hour virtual session on writing as a spiritual practice, please e-mail me at revclare@towsonuuc.org so we can find the time that works for the greatest number of people.

We will be celebrating Water Communion in virtual space on September 6. Those who would like the visceral experience of pouring water are invited to a drive-by at 3:30 p.m. in the TUUC parking lot on August 30th. We will film TUUC members and friends pouring water to be included in worship on September 6. If you cannot make that time, you are invited to send me a photo or short video of water that has been important to you this summer: from the faucet to the garden hose to rain storms and how they offered you renewal. These images will be part of our water communion.

It is appropriate that our question for September is “What does it mean to be a people of renewal?” for we are discerning what parts of our collective life will “re” (resume and repeat) and what “new” programs we will try given our need for both social distancing and spiritual communion. So grateful to be on this journey with you!

---Rev. Clare

GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT, KARYN MARSH

I have been attending the General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) since 2014. My first GA was in Providence, RI. I took an early flight and arrived in the convention center as they were finishing up the morning worship. Ethereal music and harmonies from a choir greeted me and I felt a rush. At last I had found my people!

Because of its proximity to Boston, which has the greatest concentration of UU congregations in the United States, that GA had 5,000 attendees. Being surrounded by so many fellow UUs, I felt a profound sense of belonging and connection. In the numerous workshops and lectures, I learned that other UU congregations were experiencing the same challenges that TUUC was experiencing. I realized that TUUC is not alone and wealth of wisdom in our UU association of congregations.

Given my experience in 2014, I was looking forward to going to Providence again in 2020. However, COVID-19 had veto power on everyone's plans, and this year the UUA hosted its first all-virtual GA. Although I missed the sense of community that only being there can give, I still gained a great deal from my online participation. In some respects, the virtual GA made the business sessions more efficient, which allowed me more time to participate in the workshops. Another positive aspect of the virtual format is that I am able to access all of the workshops, even the ones I was not able to attend due to schedule conflicts.

As Sue Royer mentioned in her report, this year's theme was "Rooted, Inspired, Ready" and the workshops and speakers all focused upon the work that needs to be done in the present to help bring about the change we seek in the world.

At past GAs, my focus has been on church administration and increasing church membership, but this year I concentrated more upon spiritual practice. Some of the workshops I attended include "Power Analysis as a Theological Tool", "Antiracism as a Spiritual Practice", "Why We Want and Resist Diversity", and "Building Communities to Counter White Nationalism/White Power."

Since Unitarians and Universalists joined together in 1961, I perceive there has been a fair amount of muddling of UU theology. Although we have the 7 principles, which are a covenant between congregations, I think UUs need to educate themselves on UU history and the unique UU contributions to theological and spiritual discourse in the United States over the last 300 years. This is the "rooted" part of the equation, but it can also be the "inspired" part of the equation.

Reading various books on UU history and the many great Unitarians and Universalists, I am inspired to take up the batons that they carried. From the inception of both Unitarianism and Universalism, these denominations have served as a conscience for the greater society by questioning patriarchal and racist societal structures. Thus, taking action on behalf of black lives and indigenous rights and working to dismantle

this system of white, patriarchal privilege today is very much in line with UU tradition and theology. My hope for TUUC in the coming church year is more education on our tradition and more conversations on what it means to be a UU. I also encourage everyone to consider attending GA (whether virtually or in person) next year, when it will be in beautiful Milwaukee, WI.

OTHER NEWS

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 to remove your address from direct mail lists.

Opt out of catalog mailings with catalogchoice.org.

Use optoutprescreen.com to stop insurance and credit card offers.

Opt out of Valpak mailings here: 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

DRAWDOWN ZOOM MEETING

Have you ever thought of becoming more "environmental" by subscribing to clean energy, but you do not want to put solar panels on your property? Does it seem daunting to try to do the research to learn about the different companies which are happy to sell you power? Which is the best alternative for you?

If any of these apply to you, or if you are just plain curious, please join us for our next Drawdown Zoom meeting at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, August 18. We will have a guest speaker who will educate us on the process of switching to solar or wind energy. This would be a great opportunity to learn about resources available to you and to have your questions answered. If you know of others who would be interested, have them email Bobbie Miyasaki (email address in Breeze) so that they can be sent the Zoom link.

Watch TUUC website for updated information!

www.towsonuuc.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. 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:



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

9 Aug	Sunday	Sunday Service	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87155308201	10:30 AM
9 Aug	Sunday	Social Action Committee	https://us04web.zoom.us/j/852724691?pwd=TnFiUS9NZXVTbkNXbFk3MDVUdT BtQT09	12:00 PM
9 Aug	Sunday	OWL Middle School	Memorial Garden	4:30 PM
12 Aug	Wednesday	Program Council Mtg	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95946803436	7:30 PM
13 Aug	Thursday	Rehearsal for Sunday	TDB	6:00 PM
16 Aug	Sunday	Sunday Service	Zoom info to come	10:30 AM
16 Aug	Sunday	Family Outdoor RE	TUUC Picnic Grove	4:00 PM
16 Aug	Sunday	OWL Middle School	Memorial Garden	4:30 PM
18 Aug	Tuesday	Coffee with the Minister	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94314283327	12:00 PM
18 Aug	Tuesday	Drawdown Zoom Mtg	Contact Bobbie Miyasaki	5:30 PM
18 Aug	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	Contact Art Starr	7:30 PM
18 Aug	Tuesday	Women's Group Mtg	Contact Jane D'Ambrogi	7:30 PM

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.



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

ZOOM SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE REPORT

(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

Date	Time	Adults/Children
8/2/2020	10:30 AM	80



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

Face coverings required.
Please keep 6 ft apart.



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