

The Threshold

Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church
A Welcoming Congregation

What does it mean to be a people of Lifelines?

AUGUST 23, 2020 - 10:30 AM

ANDREW HAGER, LAY WORSHIP ASSOCIATES: *STILL, IT'S SO MUCH CLEARER*

Lay Worship Associate Andrew Hager and banjo king Tony Bonta explore the music of alt-rock pioneers R.E.M. with a special focus on how memories connect us to one another.

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION (YRE)

This week we offer our last summer YRE playdate with Miss Angela. We hope that your younger child can join us this Thursday at 7 pm for stories and yoga. Please see the parent email or website calendar for zoom details.

The 7th-9th OWL class will meet as scheduled at 4:30 pm this Sunday, August 23, in the picnic grove.

We hope you can join us for the August hike/stream walk on August 30 at 2 pm to enjoy a shady walk down to the lake along the streams in the Loch Raven trail. Bring a small container to collect some water from the streams so you can participate in the water sharing at TUUC, which is only 10 minutes away from this trail off of Pot Spring Road.

The Youth Religious Exploration Committee is close to finalizing plans for fall based on the budget available. We plan for all those in grades PreK through 6th to join a zoom meeting at 9 am. On the first Sunday of the month, we will spend about 20 minutes learning about the theme of the month, hearing a story, and sharing the results of projects that have been sent out. After this group time, classes will join in breakout rooms, ending no later than 10 am (sessions for younger groups will be shorter).

On other Sundays, we will meet as a large group for a shorter time so that classes will have a bit longer for their sessions. The grades in each breakout room will depend on

the number of registrants but will probably be PreK through 4th and 5th/6th. We have enough teachers to break up the younger grades if we have enough participants. This group will use the Soul Matters packets that will connect to the monthly themes used by worship planners and sharing circles. The 5th/6th grade teachers are still deciding the best choice for their group.

The 7th/9th grade group and YRUU will both meet at noon on Sundays.

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.

ONGOING VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Contact facilitator in Breeze for meeting information or see the [church calendar](#).

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

2nd Sunday each month at noon

Facilitator: Lorraine Sorbello

COFFEE WITH THE MINISTER

Tuesdays 12:00 – 1:00pm

Facilitator: Rev. Clare Petersberger

MEN'S REFLECTION GROUP

1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:30—9:00 PM

Facilitator: Fred Sypher

WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING

1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:30—9:00 PM

Facilitator: Jane D'Ambrogi

SOUL MATTERS

2nd & 4th Tuesdays 7:30—8:30 PM

Facilitator: Rev. Clare Petersberger

PROGRAM COUNCIL MEETING

2nd Wednesday each month at 7:30 PM

Facilitator: Andrew Hager

TUUC BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

3rd Wednesday each month at 7:30 PM

Facilitator: Sue Royer

MEN'S GROUP

2nd & 4th Thursdays 7:30—8:30 PM

Facilitator: Michael Magrogan

Face coverings required.
Please keep 6 ft apart.



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

Missed an issue of the *Threshold*?

You can always find past issues at

<https://www.towsonuuc.org/our-news>

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS 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!

For Sunday, August 23, 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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89975950164>

Meeting ID: 899 7595 0164

Passcode: 826156

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,89975950164#,,,,,0#,,826156# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,89975950164#,,,,,0#,,826156# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 899 7595 0164

Passcode: 826156

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89975950164>



created by P. Evans

AUGUST IS A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

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, Inc. 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 supports and advocates for incarcerated and previously-incarcerated Marylanders. Your contributions help them:

Facilitate the voting rights of citizens behind bars and those who have returned to the community;

Provide bail and home monitoring funds so citizens accused of crimes needn't await trial in jail;

Provide housing and employment resources for returning citizens including help with record expungement;

Heighten community awareness of voting and census issues with in-person and media events.

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.



OUT FOR JUSTICE

Mission Statement

Out for Justice, Inc. (OFJ) is an organization comprised of individuals who are both directly and indirectly impacted by the criminal justice system advocating for the reform of policies and practices that adversely affect successful reintegration into society.

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—REDS

Warren Beatty and Diane Keaton star in this sweeping, epic romance set against the backdrop of the Russian Revolution. Jack Nicholson and Gene Hackman co-star. (available on Amazon. Rated PG.)

Trailer: https://youtu.be/2cf_8_x-lfY

Discussion: Saturday, August 22, 4 PM.



Next Week—THE BLING RING

The true story of celebrity-obsessed LA teenagers who decide to rob their favorite personalities in order to experience fame secondhand. Sofia Coppola's insightful, incisive feature is funny and appalling in equal measure. (Available on Netflix. Rated R.)

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/NcE2fj-EtJY>

Discussion: Saturday, August 29, 4 PM.



SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP HAPPY HOUR

Saturday, August 22, 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 Breeze church directory.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS FOR THE THRESHOLD

TUUC committees are encouraged to submit an article or announcement to the weekly published Threshold newsletter. Please remember deadline is Wednesday at 12:00 PM and should be sent to news@towsonuuc.org or churchoffice@towsonuuc.org.

JOB OPENING AVAILABLE AT TUUC

Applications are currently being accepted for Communications and Outreach Coordinator. Nonmembers encouraged to apply. For more information, see job posting [attached](#).



PLANT ADOPTION

Large plants at TUUC need homes for the winter.

If you can help our large plants to winter over

by adopting one or two of them,

please contact Todd at houseandgrounds@towsonuuc.org.

Thank you!

**“WRITING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE”
A VIRTUAL DROP-IN GROUP
FRIDAYS 1:00 - 2:00 PM
SEPT. 4 AND 18, OCT. 2 AND 16,
NOV. 6 AND 20, AND DEC. 4**

“If we contemplate the origins of storytelling, our images take us back to the earliest gatherings of humans around the sacred fire. Just as our first ancestors learned to harness the power of fire to warm, transform, and provide, so they learned the power of story to ignite courage, transform despair, and provide spiritual sustenance.”

From *Awakening the Creative Spirit*

Christine Valters Paintner and Betsey Beckman

This is an invitation to drop in to experience the power of writing in community. Twice a month we will gather for an hour on a Friday afternoon. We will introduce ourselves; I will share a quotation and writing prompt; and then we will write together for 10-15 minutes in silence and without stopping. You may choose to write with pen or paper or on a tablet. But please don't remove your face from our virtual meeting. We want to be able to look up and see each other just as our ancestors looked across the fire and saw one another.

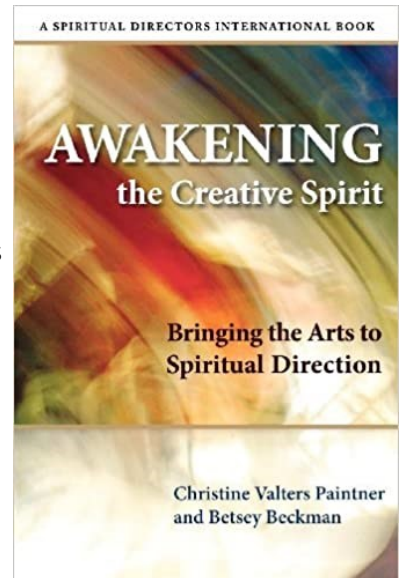
At the end, I will ring a chime, inviting everyone to stop writing. Those who wish to do so will share what they have written---without comment, feedback, or judgement. This is sacred sharing and listening. The goal is not to improve one's writing (or to improve someone else's writing!). The goal is to know another and be known.

At the end of the session, the remaining time will be given to conversation on what it felt to write, what someone else's writing brought to mind, what else the prompt prompted in us, etc.

The Reverend Barbara Childs observed, “In a sense, writing as a spiritual practice is meditating on paper to become mindful of who we are. It is a process of paying attention to what matters.”

I hope you will join in at least one if not all seven sessions to become mindful of who we are and to pay attention to what matters!

Rev. Clare



Soul Matters

What does it mean to be
a people of RENEWAL?



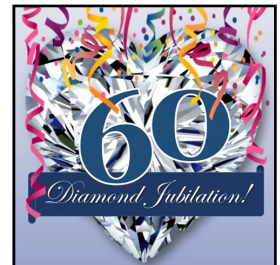
SOUL MATTERS SHARING CIRCLE

Soul Matters Sharing Circle 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 September 1 by e-mailing me at revclare@towsonuuc.org. This will give time to practice one of the exercises before our first meeting on September 22nd.

TUUC AUCTION

Yes, of course we're having an Auction this year. This is TUUC's 60th year and we're celebrating with our "Diamond Jubilation!" Auction in November. The 19 members of the Auction Committee have already met twice on Zoom with productive and lively discussions on how to make this year's Auction more exciting, entertaining and inclusive, even though we are having it in virtual space.

Auction evening festivities will be via Zoom, but a great deal will be very familiar including many wonderful donations of items and events, spirited bidding and an evening of entertainment, fellowship, and maybe even special food and prizes. This is TUUC's largest fundraising event so please plan to participate and start thinking about donations.



We'll provide more details soon. There will be a link on TUUC's homepage (towsonuuc.org), which you can click on to get Auction information and support. There will be ample help from a cadre of Auction Committee coaches who will help you navigate participation in the virtual auction and address any other auction questions or concerns.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY - OUR DAILY BREAD NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Our Daily Bread is Maryland's largest hot meal program, serving more than a quarter of a million meals to those experiencing hunger in *Baltimore City* each year.

August has a fifth Saturday, and even though we aren't together to bring casseroles to TUUC or donate for one to be bought in your name, the hungry people of Baltimore need you to be generous. Please consider sending a check to Our Daily Bread, 725 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202

Baltimore's poverty rate has increased 20%, reaching a staggering 25.6% (U.S. Census Bureau). With one in four *Baltimoreans* living in poverty.

**REV. CLARE'S REPORT FROM THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
GENERAL ASSEMBLY June 24-28, 2020**

One of the workshops I attended at the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly was entitled, "Tricks To Inspire: A Magic Ministry Workshop." Rob Kinslow, a graduate of Star King School For the Ministry, lifted up the importance of magic to help reconnect us with a transcending sense of mystery and wonder. This sense of mystery and wonder strengthens our spirits to do the work of justice. An example of Rob's ministry of magic (The Invisible Thread) may be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84Sjso1z0Y8>

Many of the workshops I attended at the UUA GA affirmed that we are all connected in our desire to do the work to become anti-racist and anti-oppressive as individuals, as institutions, and as a society.

The Rev. Keith Kron and The Rev. Patrice Curtis helped us to explore why we both want and resist diversity as congregations. Genuine diversity will require us to change and to be changed by others. Such transformation, while not easy, is profoundly meaningful. We were asked "Where in your congregation do you find hope that your congregation is radically welcoming of diversity?" Then came the question, "Where in your congregation do you see the need for more hope (i.e., where there is more talk than action.)?"

The Rev. John Buehrens, former President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, spoke of his work researching the spiritual friendships of the Transcendentalists. When he looks to the history of our faith, he finds exemplars of welcoming differences of gender, theology, politics, and even race. He spoke of the friendship of Louis Hayden and John Andrew (among others.) <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/spiritual-friendship>

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, the author of our Common Read, *An Indigenous People's History of the United States* offered a timeline of the impact of colonialism from the Doctrine of Discovery all the way to expressions of white Nationalism in the United States in 2020. White Nationalism, as a movement, is rooted in the violent theft of land from indigenous people and the enslavement of people from Africa. Many of us did not learn this American history in school and need to learn it now.

The Commission On Institutional Change offered recommendations for "Widening Our Circle Of Concern." They pointed out that "*The work of becoming more equitable, inclusive, and diverse within our congregations is justice work. If we cannot do this well, we cannot be effective as justice partners.*" Their full report is here: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening>

One of the workshops I attended was on "Theological Grounding For Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity" which invited us to understand our faith not as "one person's right to believe or say anything" but rather as the answer to the question, "What does our

collective salvation look like?” since “We will only be saved by the all of all of us.”

Another workshop explored “Reparations Rooted In Repair.” This was my introduction to reparations for our country’s history of enslaving people from Africa. As one of the speaker’s noted, “Racism has done more for white people than affirmative action has done for African Americans.” We were strongly encouraged to learn more about H.R. 40 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/40> and to advocate for its passage.

Naomi Klein began her Ware Lecture with a short video reflecting why the Green New Deal is a plan our country needs to pursue. The clock is striking midnight on the climate crisis. She inspired us to believe that when we treat this climate crisis as an emergency, we will be able, as a country, to meet the challenge. She noted that the original New Deal offered jobs, food, art, and cultivation of the natural world at a time of economic crisis almost 90 years ago. She observed that our country was already in a crisis before the Covid pandemic. Now, we feel like “we are all stuck in a science fiction novel we are writing together.” The emphasis was on the power of “we” to do the hard things needed to cultivate and practice an ethos of care and repair for future generations.

Dina Gilio Whitaker, who teaches at California State University, and who wrote *As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice, from Colonization to Standing Rock*, also spoke of the need for environmental justice to counter environmental racism. She pointed us to the work of the Rockefeller Foundation and Lancet Commission on Planetary Health.

<https://europeanhealthcaredesign.salus.global/conference-static-page/the-work-of-the-rockefeller-foundation-lancet-commission-on-planetary-health>

Morning worship services and special worship like the Service of the Living Tradition reconnected us to the transcending sense of mystery and wonder while also strengthening us for the work of the general assembly plenary sessions and for our work in the wider world. The General Assembly passed two actions of immediate witness which may be found here:

https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/20200625_aiw_400_years_white_supremacist_colonialism.pdf

https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/20200625_aiw_amen_uprising.pdf

Rob Kinslow is right. We humans are connected by an invisible thread. And part of our work as Unitarian Universalists is to make these threads more visible---especially when it comes to racial, social, and environmental justice. This year’s first all-virtual UUA GA reminded Unitarian Universalists that we are rooted, inspired, and ready to do just that!

TUUC BOOK GROUP

September 2—7:30 PM

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.

Zoom Info for TUUC Book Group

Time: Sep 2, 2020 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/91998308473>

Meeting ID: 919 9830 8473

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,91998308473# US (Germantown)

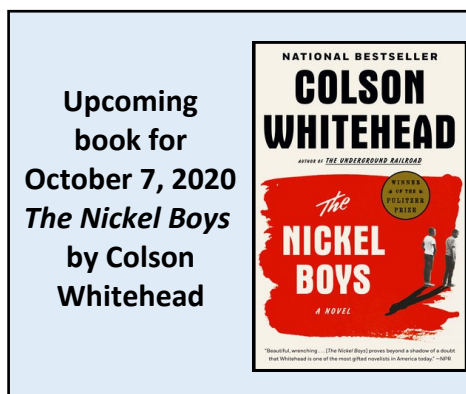
+16468769923,,91998308473# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 919 9830 8473



TUUC CHOIR REHEARSALS TO RESUME AFTER LABOR DAY

The TUUC Choir will not be returning to in-person rehearsals this fall, due to continuing concerns about spreading COVID-19. However, we will resume having weekly Zoom meetings on Thursdays, that include some singing and some social time together. The first online rehearsal will be Thursday, September 10 at 7:30 PM. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Music Director Tracy Hall at music@towsonuuc.org.

Virtual Happy Hour

August 21, 2020—5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

In a recent conversation, a TUUC member lamented that we will not be gathering in the foyer on Sunday mornings this fall. No. But we can still socialize!

Come extroverts! Come introverts!
Come people looking for a great way
to get the weekend off to a fun start!

Join us for a virtual

Happy Hour at 5 p.m. on Friday, August 21.
It's definitely BYOB! Here's to a fun virtual gathering!



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 + 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>	



Watch TUUC website for updated information!

www.towsonuuc.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

Calendar is subject to change. Check the website calendar [here](#) for most current schedule.

21 Aug	Friday	Happy Hour	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94356857174	5:00 PM
22 Aug	Saturday	Singles Fellowship Group	Contact Ron Rowley for Info	4:00 PM
22 Aug	Saturday	UULI-CER Pre-Work	Contact Sue Royer for info	12:00 PM
23 Aug	Sunday	Sunday Service	Zoom info email	10:30 AM
23 Aug	Sunday	OWL Middle School	The Grove Picnic Area	4:30 PM
25 Aug	Tuesday	Coffee w/Minister	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94314283327	12:00 PM
25 Aug	Tuesday	Men's Group	TUUC Parking Lot	1:00 PM
27 Aug	Thursday	Rehearsal for Sunday	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93487518305	6:00 PM
30 Aug	Sunday	Sunday Service	Zoom info email	10:30 AM
30 Aug	Sunday	Committee on Ministries	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94268896355	12:30 PM
30 Aug	Sunday	Water Communion	TUUC Parking Lot	3:30 PM
30 Aug	Sunday	OWL Middle School	Grove Picnic Area	4:30 PM
1 Sept	Tuesday	Coffee with the Minister	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94314283327	12:00 PM
1 Sept	Tuesday	Auction Committee Meeting	TBD	7:00 PM
1 Sept	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	Contact Fred Sypher for info	7:30 PM
1 Sept	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	Contact Jane D'Ambrogi for info	7:30 PM

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
8/16/2020	10:30 AM	78



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

TECHNICAL USHERS NEEDED

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.

