

The Threshold

Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church
A Welcoming Congregation

What does it mean to be a people of Lifelines?

August 30, 2020 - 10:30 AM

Rev. Clare L. Petersberger, Carol Mason, Wendell Finner: The Lifeline of Wonder

We finish our summer series on lifelines and begin our exploration of what it means to be a people of renewal with a reflection on the first source of our Unitarian Universalist faith tradition: Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life. When has wonder been a lifeline to you? When has wonder renewed your spirit? Today, a little magic at the beginning of the service for those young at heart will give us a direct experience of transcending mystery and wonder! If you still have ribbon near your device from the spring, or if you can find a piece of ribbon or string, we will affirm how we are life-lines to one another. And later in the service Wendell Finner will explain the wonder-filled work of “Out For Justice” as our offering is dedicated to this organization.

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

I hope you are enjoying these beautiful days of August either at home or perhaps a local getaway before restart of classes. Unfortunately, the hike planned for Sunday, August 30, is delayed until September.

We hope to have activity packets ready for pick up this Sunday in the parking lot. You are invited to drive by to pour your water and then pick up a packet that will include instructions and items for activities for four Sundays in September. The themes for September are renewal through reconnecting, renewal through our first UU principle, renewal through antiracism, and renewal through asking for forgiveness (Yom Kippur). These packets are planned for those families with children in grades PreK through 6th. Please register online <https://www.towsonuuc.org/yre-form> to help us know how many packets to prepare. Contact Joyce at tuudre@towsonuuc.org if picking up a packet is problematic.

Online YRE classes and family Zoom meetings will start on September 6 for those in PreK through 6th; online Zoom meetings for 8th/9th will start when OWL classes are completed; online Zoom meetings for YRUU will start on Sept. 13 (noon).

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.

OUR MESSY LIVES

This group is about certain personality traits like patience and kindness and what happens when we try to implement them in our lives. If you are always patient and kind, for example, congratulations! However this group is not for you. But if you are like me and are not always patient or kind, then please join us as we explore our messy lives. Open to all but pre-registration is required to receive zoom meeting id, password and personality trait that will be featured that week. The group will meet via zoom on the following dates and time, from 3-4 pm, on Sept 24, Oct 8, Oct 22, Nov 12 Nov 19, and Dec 10. If TUUC's building has not reopened by then additional dates will be announced. To register, contact Art Starr at mensgroup@towsonuuc.org.

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

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 30, 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.

Rev. Clare L. Petersberger is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94023739657>

Meeting ID: 940 2373 9657

Passcode: 532986

One tap mobile +13017158592,,94023739657#,,,,,0#,,532986# US (Germantown)

+16468769923,,94023739657#,,,,,0#,,532986# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 940 2373 9657

Passcode: 532986



created by P. Evans

Face coverings required.
Please keep 6 ft apart.



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

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.

Watch TUUC website for updated information! www.towsonuuc.org

CABIN FEVER

Join our online movie group for weekly discussions.

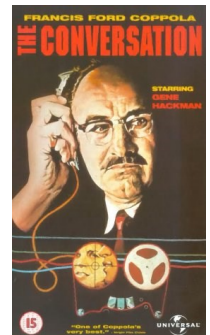
Email churchoffice@towsonuuc.org to be added to our mailing list and receive Zoom meeting information.

THIS WEEK—THE 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.



NEXT WEEK—THE CONVERSATION

In this paranoid 1974 film, Gene Hackman plays a wiretapping expert who finds himself being watched. Directed by Francis Ford Coppola. (Available on Amazon Prime. Rated PG.)

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/x-LxiRETWA>

Discussion: Saturday, September 5, 4 PM.

TUUC POETRY OFFERING

Have you ever wanted to write poetry, or have you already written poems? Without "negative" criticism?! Now's your chance to do so. We'll meet twice a month to discuss our poems, to look at the biographies of certain poets and possibly look at certain kinds of poetry which we may or may not emulate.

What I need to know is: Do you want to meet virtually day or night? What would be the best day(s) to meet twice a month?

Let me know your interest and the answers to the particular questions posed above.

Contact Michael Magrogan at poetry@towsonuuc.org

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.



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!



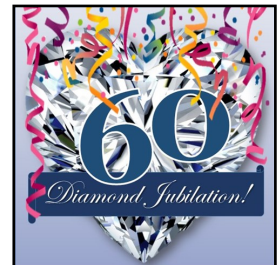
SOUL MATTERS SHARING CIRCLE

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. You may expect a community of thoughtful, caring, and committed participants. This is a covenanted group, not a drop in group, that will meet through January. 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.

“WRITING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE”

A Virtual Drop-in Group

Fridays 1:00 – 2:00

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

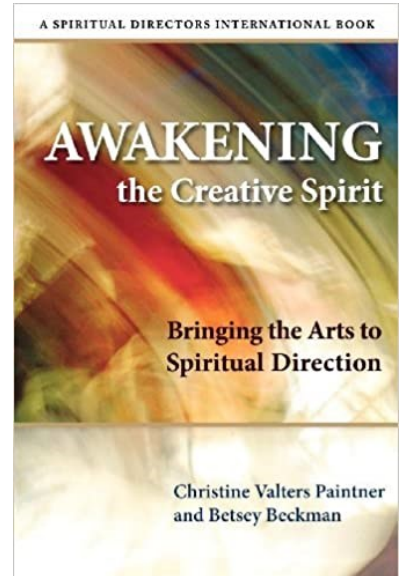
This is an invitation to drop in to experience the power of writing in community. We will introduce ourselves; I will share a quotation and writing prompt; and then we will write together for 10-15 minutes without stopping.

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. 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.

I hope you will join in at least one if not all seven sessions “to ignite courage, transform despair, and provide spiritual sustenance.”

Rev. Clare



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)

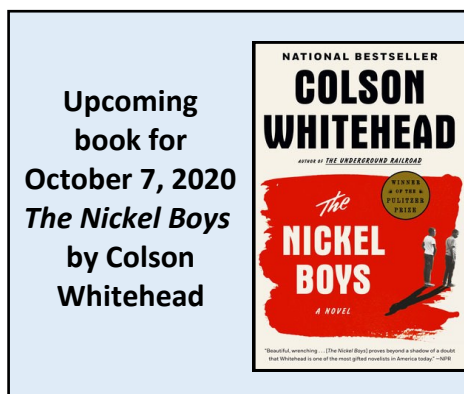
+16468769923,,91998308473# US (New York)

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

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Friday, September 11 and Friday, September 25



Sixteen people attended our August Virtual Happy Hour. Drinks people brought included special wine, craft beer, and delicious water. Those who gathered expressed interest in connecting for another virtual Happy Hour to socialize. So if you are 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, September 11 and/or 5 p.m. on Friday September 25**. It's definitely BYOB! Here's to fun virtual gatherings!

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!

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>	
amount + Auction	Auction
<i>ex: text "50 Auction" to give to Auction</i>	

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

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
2 Sept	Wednesday	The Book Group	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/91998308473	7:30 PM
3 Sept	Thursday	Caring Ministry Meeting	TBD	7:30 PM
4 Sept	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97258482723	1:00 PM
6 Sept	Sunday	Sunday Service	Zoom info email	10:30 AM
8 Sept	Tuesday	Coffee with the Minister	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94314283327	12:00 PM
9 Sept	Wednesday	Program Council Meeting	Info to come	7:30 PM
10 Sept	Thursday	Men's Group Meeting	Contact Art Starr	7:30 PM
11 Sept	Friday	Happy Hour	https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93779368622	5:00 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
8/23/2020	10:30 AM	85



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.

