Submissions appearing for the first time this week are printed in **BLUE**. September 18, 2020 Volume 9 Number 3



## The Threshold

Towson Unitarian Universalist Church A Welcoming Congregation

## What does it mean to be a people of Renewal?

#### SEPTEMBER 20, 2020 - 10:30 AM ANDREW HAGER, WORSHIP ASSOCIATE: *GROWING TOGETHER*

In this service, lay worship associate Andrew Hager will focus on the ways in which our church community has grown together over the last sixty years and can continue to do so moving forward.

#### VESPERS—SEPTEMBER 21, 7:00-7:25 PM TAIZE STYLE SERVICE

A vespers service of Taize-style music will be held on Monday, Sept. 21st. The service begins at 7:00, and we'll finish in time so that you can also attend the Listening Session about the changes to church bylaws that evening. With a setting of votive candles, several singers will lead you in chants that evening, in several languages, with a repetitive, meditative feel. You may choose to bring your own candle(s) to your



device to enhance the contemplative spirit of the service. Join us for this quiet, soothing service on Zoom.

#### **YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION**

Families are invited to join us this Sunday at 9 AM for YRE Classes and Family Meeting. Last Sunday, we learned about renewal through the lens of antiracism. All are welcome; the classes are planned for children in K -4th grade and 5th-7th grades.

This Sunday we will be renewing ourselves through the sense of wonder honored in the first UU source: 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.

We will be talking about the wonder we have when we think about stars and other wonder-inducing phenomena. At noon, Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)

for those in grades 9 through 12 will discuss the themes of. repair and renewal. See the parent email or the church calendar for information to join either group. Our Whole Lives (OWL) class continues to meet outside at TUUC at 4:30 pm. Please invite any parents who are interested in our youth programming to contact Joyce at <u>tuucdre@towsonuuc.org</u> for more information.

#### MUSIC AT TUUC-CHOIR REHEARSALS ON THURSDAYS AT 7:30 PM

The TUUC Choir continues to meet weekly on Thursday evenings. While they won't be

singing as a group in the Zoom services (due to latency issues), they will be working on a variety of musical activities. The rehearsals include social time to "check in" with one another, announcements and information about upcoming projects, and some singing time as well. Vocal exercises keep our voices in shape, and we'll be working on music and making plans for virtual choir recordings (some



audio only and hopefully some with video). Many choir members are called upon to lead music live on Sunday mornings as well. If you'd like to join in, check the church calendar for the login information. Please also email Music Director Tracy Hall at <u>music@towsonuuc.org</u> if you plan to come for the first time.

#### **MUSICIANS WANTED**

If you play an instrument or feel comfortable singing as a soloist, we need you! Each Sunday, we try to keep a balanced variety of soloists and song leaders. Please contact Music Director Tracy Hall at <u>music@towsonuuc.org</u> if you have an interest in sharing music with the congregation in our Zoom services.

#### **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

<u>COFFEE WITH THE MINISTER</u> Tuesdays 12:00 – 1:00 PM Facilitator: Rev. Clare Petersberger

AGING TOGETHER 2nd Tuesday each month at 1:00 PM Facilitator: Michael Magrogan

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

MEN'S REFLECTION GROUP 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:30—9:00 PM Facilitator: Fred Sypher

TUUC BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 3rd Wednesday each month at 7:30 PM Facilitator: Sue Royer

<u>MEN'S GROUP</u> 2nd & 4th Thursdays 7:30—8:30 PM Facilitator: Michael Magrogan

**GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE** 1st Sunday each month at 12:00 PM Facilitators: Carel Hedlund and Charlene Rossi

#### **CLARE'S COLLOQUY**

Our spiritual question for September is, "What does it mean to be a people of renewal?" This theme was chosen in early April. The hope, then, was that in the United States, the COVID virus would be contained in the late spring and early summer and that we would be gathering in person again to renew our faith community and work together for justice. But that is not how reality has unfolded.

So, what does it mean to be a people of renewal in September of 2020 in the United States?

There are things in our lives that we need to renew---such as prescriptions and a passport, a driver license and a lease, and health and auto insurance. Some things in our digital lives renew automatically (sometimes without warning!) such as subscriptions to magazines and membership in a gym.

But when it comes to relationships, renewal takes intentionality. We speak of renewing friendships and the renewal of marriage vows.

One Unitarian Universalist congregation in the greater Washington area is inviting its members and friends to intentionally "commit to connection" by committing to attend virtual worship and virtual religious exploration and at least one other small group program or socially distanced activity. Why is this important? Because relationships take intentionality. There is an even greater need for such intentionality in a time of social distancing.

This week, a TUUC member e-mailed me the following request, "I am hoping to hear about the value of faith, patience, calm, love and support for each other and the positive side of our human nature in the days ahead...so that our actions can be seen as useful and valuable and effective." While I am happy to speak about these values, the reality is that we give one another faith, calm, love, and support by showing up for each other.

Yes, I know that virtual space is not the same and that we spend too many hours on devices as it is. I also know what it means for two people who haven't "seen" one another for a while to reconnect in virtual space: the broad smiles, the exclamations of delight, the questions of genuine interest and care.

We are in the midst of a difficult and dangerous time in the United States. We need to find new ways to connect to be reminded of the values we cherish. We need one another for support. We need to be reminded that what we do for justice does matter.

So please look through the TUUC newsletter and calendar and commit to connection. If you have an idea for a new small group program you are willing to host in virtual space, or in the TUUC parking lot with social distancing this fall, please speak to me or Andrew Hager. Let us reaffirm the importance of our relationships by creating new ways to bring hope to one another when hope is hard to find even when we can't sing together in person. For this is what it means to be a people of renewal in September of 2020.

## 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, September 20, 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://uuma.zoom.us/j/92238300532

Meeting ID: 922 3830 0532 Passcode: 063504 One tap mobile +13017158592,,92238300532#,,,,,0#,,063504# US (Germantown) +13126266799,,92238300532#,,,,,0#,,063504# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown) +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 646 876 9923 US (New York) +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) Meeting ID: 922 3830 0532 Passcode: 063504



created by P. Evans

## **TUUC Auction 2020**

#### TUUC AUCTION 2020—DIAMOND JUBILEE October 11 – November 21

It's time to plan your donations for the TUUC 2020 Auction. On-line bidding opens on October  $11^{th}$ . It would be great to have your donations entered by that date so they have maximum exposure to interested buyers. Here are links to the instructions and the online donation form:



#### Instructions: <u>Auction 2020 Donation Form Instructions</u> Donation Form: <u>Auction 2020 Donation Form</u>

Auction 2020 will be an online celebration, so a few changes have been made regarding donations. As before, we ask that donations of physical articles be limited to new or previously-owned items in excellent condition. Because of the added challenges of getting items picked-up and delivered to the buyer, we are limiting donations to items with a value of at least \$25.

Donations that worked well in prior years are still viable this year. Donations of events planned while the pandemic is still with us should be Covid-safe, which probably means an outdoor setting with social-distancing and other precautions. You may also donate a non-socially distanced event for after the danger has passed. In that case you should <u>not</u> specify a date but contact the winners once it's safe, and set a date that works for everyone.

We are happy to have all kinds of donations; items large and small, services you are able to offer, outdoor activities which you can host, gift boxes and baskets, online classes and group events either socially-distanced or post-pandemic. Those who think up interesting offerings are often surprised by the appreciative response of the congregation. Hosting an event like a bike ride, hike or picnic gets a great response and allows the donor and buyers to have a good time together. Here is a more extensive list of donations ideas:

#### **DONATION IDEAS**

Donations of gift cards and gift certificates are very welcome. There will be a virtual Raffle this year and gift cards continue to be a great raffle prize!

If you're still stumped, a cash donation is always appreciated and will help offset the expenses of putting on the Auction. You can enter your cash donation using the Auction 2020 Donation Form (link above) or Donate by Text as described on the TUUC website:

#### DONATE TO TUUC

The Auction Committee is working hard to make this year's Diamond Jubilation Auction a big success and lots of fun. Whether or not you donate, please participate by downloading the auction software and purchasing a few raffle tickets or bidding for the growing number of items being offered. Invitations with instructions for downloading the Bid Beacon<sup>®</sup> auction software have been emailed to the entire congregation. Check out the Auction Link on the TUUC website to request help, view Auction news and look at donations being offered for sale. Be sure to take part in the Auction Night festivities planned via Zoom on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### GOVERNANCE UPDATE AND CALL TO SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Board and the Bylaws Committee have been working hard since our Congregational Meeting on June 14, to complete the review of the remaining articles of our Bylaws, and to incorporate recommendations from attorneys with expertise in Maryland church law.

The Board of Trustees is calling a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, October 25, 2020 on Zoom with check-in starting at 11:45 am. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the proposed Bylaws and to vote on amended Articles of Incorporation.

We invite you to join a listening session with members of the Board and of the Bylaws Committee, to learn more:

#### Listening Session Dates - on Zoom and on the church calendar:

Wednesday, September 2 at 7:30 pm - complete Sunday, September 20 at 12:00 noon Monday, September 21 at 7:30 pm Sunday, September 27 at 12:00 noon

Please join to learn and to give us your comments. We look forward to seeing you!

#### **CABIN FEVER**

Join our online movie group for weekly discussions.

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

#### THIS WEEK—THE LOVE WITCH

In this horror-tinted romantic comedy, a young woman uses magic spells to make men fall in love with her, with disastrous results. (Available on Amazon Prime. Not rated.)

Trailer: <u>https://youtu.be/PBYt5CvRWXs</u>

Discussion: Saturday, September 19, 4 PM.

#### NEXT WEEK-MIDNIGHT SPECIAL

A father (Michael Shannon) must protect his supernaturally gifted son from federal agents and a religious cult.

Trailer: https://youtu.be/8UU CC81aGM

Discussion: Saturday, September 26, 4 PM.

#### **GREEN INVESTING**

You are trying to be environmentally aware by conserving resources, minimizing waste, and recycling when you can. However, is there more that can be done to make an impact to reduce global warming? Is there a way to encourage companies to be more environmentally sensitive? Yes, you can put your money where your heart is! There are stock market funds that you can invest in which focus on companies who are





environmentally conscientious. If you would like to learn more about these investment opportunities, where we are able to actively support companies who care where their money goes, please join our Drawdown Zoom group for a session on "green investing," on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 5:30 PM. We will have 2 guest speakers, a retirement and investment advisor, and a representative from Parnassas Investments, who will help us learn more about these investment alternatives. If you are not already on our mailing list, please contact Bobbie Miyasaki (email in Breeze) so that you can receive the Zoom link prior to the meeting.

Donna Eden, Bobbie Miyasaki & Carel Hedlund

## SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP HAPPY HOUR—SEPTEMBER 26 AT 4PM

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.

#### AMAZONSMILE

I would like to remind you of a painless way to contribute to TUUC's bottom line. AmazonSmile! Each time you make a purchase on Amazon, the company will make a small donation to the charity of your choice. Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have been making more purchases than usual that are online, and many of them are through Amazon. So I wanted to remind you of this possibility.

How it works: It's simple! Log onto <u>amazonsmile.com</u>. Choose your charity (TUUC, I hope). Then make your purchase as usual. Amazon will make a donation of .5% of each purchase you make. That may seem like a tiny amount, and it is, but if we all do it, for all of our Amazon purchases, it will add up! It only happens when you log onto Amazonsmile. If you forget, and just log onto Amazon, there is no donation. Just create a new habit of going to Amazonsmile!

Currently, we are only benefiting a couple of hundred dollars a year from this program, but I think that is because only a few of us are doing it.

When you designate your charity, you only have to do so once. Then, every time you make a purchase through <u>amazonsmile.com</u>, they will automatically apply the donation. Amazon sends us a check a few times a year.

So let's make our purchasing count! Its painless! And Amazon can afford it! Susan Riggs, Board Secretary

#### ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS FOR THE THRESHOLD

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





## **TUUC SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

#### DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PARTNER WE SUPPORT?

This month, we highlight the TUUC Social Action Community Partner Our Daily Bread (ODB). Since June 1, 1981, they have never missed a day of lunch service to those experiencing hunger in Baltimore, in spite of blizzards, hurricanes or any other occurrence. 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.

TUUC has pledged to provide at least 60 casseroles to ODB in each month which has 5 Saturdays (usually 4 times per year). <u>October is one of these months.</u> Contributions by individuals and churches serve 600-800 lunch guests each day!

During Covid, we are contributing funds only (\$10 per casserole), not actual cooked casseroles.

To learn more about the program, see <u>https://www.catholiccharities-md.org/services/our-daily-bread-hot-meal-program/</u>

So, please contribute to Our Daily Bread (ODB) by one of these methods:

1. <u>Text -</u> Send a text to: 410-834-0700:

<u>amount + ODB</u>, for *example*: text "<u>50 ODB</u>" to give \$50 *OR....* 

2. Send a <u>check</u> to TUUC (1710 Dulaney Valley Rd. Lutherville MD 21093) and specify "<u>ODB</u>" on the memo line.

Thank you for your generosity!

#### **HOWEVER YOU VOTE, BE PREPARED!**

Mail-in voting is preferred for safety reasons. For the general election, this is a two-stage process: submitting an application for a mail-in ballot and voting the mail-in ballot. You may submit an <u>online ballot application</u>, <u>download and</u> print a ballot application, or return the ballot application that came in the

mail. Whichever option you choose, make your request as soon as possible so that the Board of Elections can get the requests processed and the ballots mailed in a timely fashion. The online application is particularly helpful to the Board as it eliminates the work of processing a paper application, but this option is only available to voters with a Maryland driver's license or state ID card. All applications must be <u>received</u> by the Board of Elections by October 20.

If you request your ballot online, it is best to request that ballot be sent by mail. With electronic delivery, ballots are printed at home. The information on them must be transferred by an election worker to a regular ballot in order to be read by the machine readers. This is very time consuming in a high-volume mail-in election. In general, only voters who need to use the online ballot-marking device or use a screen reader should download a ballot.

<u>VOTE411.org</u> is a League of Women Voters website that allows you to see how the candidates answered the League's questions. It also gives you more details about ballot questions. VOTE411 will go live on September 19. - *Lois Hybl* 





#### ASSISTANCE CENTER OF TOWSON CHURCHES

The Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC) continues to be very busy during the pandemic. It has distributed 160 tons of food to 16,000 people Each client receives canned goods along with fresh produce, dairy and baked goods. Generous



grant from the Maryland Food Bank together with fresh food donations from several stores has made this possible. Area churches have provided storage space for supplies.

A list of needed donations can be found on the <u>ACTC website</u>. In addition there is a need for toiletries and household supplies. Check the website for additional information.

ACTC is preparing to reinstate financial assistance for those who need help with housing or utility expenses. If you or someone you know is facing eviction, foreclosure, or utility cut-off, contact Linda Lotz, Executive Director, to find out if ACTC can assist you.

#### **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: women, men, and non-binary; but pre-registration is required to receive the 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.

## TUUC SOCRATES CAFÉ FIRST MEETING: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>, 7:30-9:00 PM

Come to the <u>new</u> TUUC Socrates Café on Zoom! Our mission will be to seek truths in the spirit of philosophical inquiry. To register, e-mail <u>socratescafe@towsonuuc.org</u> by Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, to receive the Zoom Link for the first meeting of Socrates Cafe from the facilitator, TUUC member, Nancy Caswell, who will e-mail the Link to participants by 7:15 p.m. on September 23rd...after a brief, initial check-in, a question to explore, selected by the group, will be proposed for Socratic discourse...to begin the meeting, each participant will be given the opportunity to respond to the question, without interruption...participants are asked to bring any perplexing question the/d like to propose for the group to probe in a Socratic way...we will examine the question from every angle...let us be seekers together, through philosophy in practice, through philosophy as a spirit, as a way of living, as something that any and all of us can do...

#### **TUUC BOOK CLUB**

# October 7, 2020, 7:30PM: <u>The Nickel Boys</u> by Colson Whitehead (2019—213 pages)

Winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize, Colson Whitehead brilliantly dramatizes the story of two boys sentenced to a hellish reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida. Though it's brief—213 pages long—Whitehead has made a conceptually thick, intense, political book ... From its opening lines through the novel's elegant, heartbreaking closing, Whitehead's lucid, sparkling,

storytelling incites readers to bear witness for these children real and imagined.

Zoom Info: Join Zoom Meeting <u>https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97308154420</u>

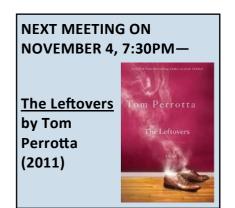
Meeting ID: 973 0815 4420 One tap mobile +13017158592,,97308154420# US (Germantown) +13126266799,,97308154420# US (Chicago)

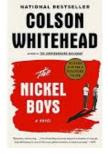
Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown) +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 646 876 9923 US (New York) +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) Meeting ID: 973 0815 4420

## Virtual Happy Hour 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. 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 25.** It's definitely BYOB! Here's to fun virtual gatherings!





## GA 2020 REPORT BY STEPHEN FINNER

General Assembly 2020 was quite a different experience from past GA's. I had been looking forward to going to Providence where it was scheduled to be as the last GA I attended "in person" was Providence in 2014. I had purchased my Amtrak ticket and made an Airbnb reservation and was very disappointed when COVID19 turned our world upside down. I had been a "virtual" delegate to the two past GA's, but my activity was limited to the business sessions, which have never been my favorite GA functions.

The first major difference was the absence of a "live choir". I have sung in over a dozen GA choirs and doing so has usually been the high point of my attendance. I was privileged to be one of 150 in the virtual GA choir which sang at the Sunday worship service. The way that works is choristers record their part and email the sound file to the conductor who working with technicians "stitch" all the recordings into one. As you can imagine it is a lot of work.

Because of my experience being a technical usher for our worship services, I volunteered to be a ZOOM chat host at GA. As such, I was involved in four workshops. The downside is I had no choice in which workshops I was participating. The upside is I met some very interesting people and learned quite a few things. My job was to coordinate with the workshop presenters and the technical host, another volunteer position to insure that each of knew who was going to do what, such as handling audio and visual effects, muting and unmuting participants and the like.

The most interesting and moving workshop was a presentation by a Canadian First Nation member, Sharon Jinkerson Brass (First Nation is the Canadian term for their indigenous people) telling the story of how their children were taken around age 6 or 7 and sent to a government run boarding school, supposedly to learn standard academic subjects. However, in addition, they were not allowed to speak their native language and taught to disregard their own culture. The intended effect was to destroy their culture and force assimilation. This practice continued into the 1960's. What struck me about Ms. Brass's presentation is that she was not angry, but understandably very sad. She made clear that the major lesson to be learned from this tragedy was recognition and celebration of the commonality of all humans and honoring everyone's dignity and worth. It was a most poignant and lasting lesson of the importance of our first principle. The Canadian government has established a reconciliation commission in which the Canadian Unitarian Council is quite active. (I can't help mentioning that something very similar is occurring now in China where the ethnic majority Han are sending Muslim Uighurs and Mongolians to "re-education camps".)

Another workshop was "Heart Songs and Circle Songs" conducted by Heather Pierson and Bernice Martin, both currently living in New Hampshire. Heather was the long time Director of Music at the First Universalist Church of Norway, Maine. This workshop was a demonstration of a worship service which "...weaves together influences from the growing singing circle tradition and the contemplative worship tradition." It is a different type of worship experience that is what some might call "soul centered". Rather than try to provide more explanation, you may want to visit their websites (www.heatherpierson.com and www.bernicemartin.me. A third workshop I most enjoyed was Reggie Harris and Greg Greenway's "Deeper than The Skin", a musical presentation on race. "Born three days apart and friends for three decades, one African American from Philadelphia and one white raised in the nostalgia of the South" took the audience through the unflinching and honest story of the ups and downs of their friendship in song. I am privileged to have Reggie as a friend, and I call him a "UU Fellow Traveler". His workshops on music and the civil rights movement and related topics are always worthwhile and you can learn more at <u>https://reggieharrismusic.com</u>.

The highlight of General Assembly 2020 for me was Sunday Morning Worship. The ministers were Rev. Joan Javier Duval and Rev. Mykal Slack. The theme was "Beyond The Waters Edge" and focused on our denomination as it struggles with issues of racial justice and white supremacy while "...also tending to our spiritual needs and caring for others." Both ministers were challenging as well as comforting. The musical director (see my note about the virtual choir above) was Benjie Messer, who serves the large UU congregation in Phoenix, AZ. The service, which I most highly recommend is still available for viewing at <u>https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2020/sunday-worship</u>.

Finally, I want to mention the business sessions, which other TUUC attendees have discussed in their reports previously published in The Threshold. There were of course, some glitches, which is quite understandable given the balancing of a complex and changing technology with the demands of creating a virtual environment where a few thousand delegates can participate in a democratic process. That said, I found the sessions to be long on procedural matters and short on substantive ones. There was a considerable struggle with the report of the Commission on Institutional Change which the delegates failed to adopt. This was due to, in my opinion, its complexity and recent release which meant that many if not most delegates (including this one) had not had time to read and absorb it. The title of the report is "Widening The Circle of Concern" and is at <u>https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening</u>

As always, GA2020, despite being virtual, offered far more events than is possible for any one person to attend. An attendee has to pick and choose and often cannot attend the event or workshop of their first choice. That notwithstanding, GA is always worth the time, effort and expense regardless if it is held in cyberspace or not. One drawback of being virtual is I had to forego the experience of meeting and greeting old friends, joining them for lunch or dinner and reconnecting. At least, my travel time and distance to and from GA events was minimal.

#### 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 THOUGH 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. <u>To avoid additional</u> <u>fees, send your contribution to the setting "family</u> <u>and friends" and please note the purpose of your</u> <u>donation in the message area.</u>

#### 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			
ex: text " <b>50 2020-21</b> " to give to 2020-2021 Stewardship Campaign				
amount + ODB	ODB Casseroles			
ex: text " <b>50 ODB</b> " to give to ODB Casseroles				
amount + GreenProducts	Green Products			
ex: text "50 GreenProducts" to give to Green Products				
amount + SAC	Social Action Collection			
ex: text " <b>50 SAC</b> " to give to Social Action Collection				
amount + Plate	Plate Collection			
ex: text " <b>50 Plate</b> " to give to Plate Collection				
amount + Auction	Auction			
ex: text " <b>50 Auction</b> " to give to Auction				



Thank you for your support!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

Calendar is subject to change. Check the website calendar here for most current schedule.

18 Sept	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
19 Sept	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
20 Sept	Sunday	Family Meetings / Classes	9:00 AM
20 Sept	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour 10	
20 Sept	Sunday	Listening Session with the Board - Bylaws	12:00 PM
20 Sept	Sunday	YRUU	12:00 PM
20 Sept	Sunday	OWL Middle School Sessions	4:30 PM
21 Sept	Monday	Vespers	7:00 PM
21 Sept	Monday	Listening Session with the Board - Bylaws	
22 Sept	Tuesday	Coffee with the Minister 12	
22 Sept	Tuesday	Soul Matters	7:30 PM
23 Sept	Wednesday	Staff Meeting	12:00 PM
24 Sept	Thursday	Rehearsal	6:00 PM
24 Sept	Thursday	Virtual Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
24 Sept	Thursday	Men's Group Meeting 7:30 PM	
25 Sept	Friday	Men's Reflection Group 1:00 PM	

Don't Work Sick Don't <mark>School</mark> Sick Don't Church Sick

## ZOOM SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE REPORT

(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

Date	Time	Adults/ Children
9/13/2020	10:30 AM	66

# Towson Unitarian Universalist Church A Welcoming Congregation

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



#### Staff

Youth Religious Exploration Director: Joyce Duncan, Credentialed RE <u>tuucdre@towsonuuc.org</u>

Music Director: Tracy Hall <u>music@towsonuuc.org</u>

Church Administrator: Kai Aiyetoro <u>churchoffice@towsonuuc.org</u>

Communications and Outreach Coordinator: Philip Browne <u>news@towsonuuc.org</u>

Bookkeeper: Raly Baltchev <u>bookkeeper@towsonuuc.org</u>

#### 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

## Missed an issue of the *Threshold*? You can always find past issues at

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

#### **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 <u>churchoffice@towsonuuc.org</u>.

