



The Threshold

Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church
A Welcoming Congregation

What does it mean to be a people of deep listening?

OCTOBER 11, 2020 - 10:30 AM

REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER; JOYCE DUNCAN, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION: *WIDENING THE CIRCLE OF CONCERN*

For the past three years, the Unitarian Universalist Commission on Institutional Change has studied how our congregations might address systemic racism---not out on the streets---but within our spiritual communities. One of its members, The Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, preached in 2018, “We are on a journey toward redemption. We have lived a year filled with lamentation... with the strength of generations, the failures of the everyday, and the deep-down gritty messiness that is the promise of our salvation. There is inherent goodness that exists between and among us. I want to honor the weary, ragged miracle that is our living tradition.” In June, the Commission on Institutional Change published its findings for how the UUA and our congregations might widen our circle of concern and live up to the ideals of our faith tradition. Let us listen to their voices---for “they” are “us”!

VIRTUAL VESPERS – OCTOBER 12 FROM 7-7:30 PM

Virtual Vespers is a contemplative service of readings and music. This is a time to rest from the demands of the world; to let go of stress; to meditate; and to deepen one's spiritual life.



YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

When it comes to deep listening, leaders have lifted up the importance of decentering whiteness, listening to BIPOC voices and placing those BIPOC voices at the center of our storytelling and discussions. Our faith has taken up this work and called white UU's to be especially vigilant about the work of listening to and centering BIPOC voices. So what's one of the ways our faith guides us into becoming a people of deep listening? It says, “White UU's, listen to BIPOC voices and actively work to bring them into the center of our faith!”

This Sunday younger kids are learning about listening to all the voices, especially by using books with diverse characters. Those in grades 5th-7th started the curriculum called D'Oh God, which uses episodes from the Simpsons to learn about justice issues.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 SERVICE INFORMATION

For Sunday, October 11, 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/93090709248>

Meeting ID: 930 9070 9248

Passcode: 470140

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 930 9070 9248

Passcode: 470140



created by P. Evans

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 – 1:00 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'Ambrogio

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

MEN'S GROUP

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

“What does it mean to be a people who listen deeply?” This is our spiritual question for October.

Deep down, I believe each and every person yearns to be heard, yearns to have another listen to their thoughts, their emotions, their passions. This is how we share who we are and what is important to us. This is how we become known as unique and unrepeatable human beings.

Our Soul Matters Sharing Circle encourages the practice of deep listening as a spiritual practice. Too often we hear what another says and immediately jump in with our own life experience. The other person is left feeling unheard. Deep listening invites us to give another the gift of being heard without interruption.

But what works at an interpersonal level is no longer working for me when it comes to the headlines.

I've decided not to listen to those who are actively working to harm, tear down, and demean others.

I was raised to believe that everyone deserves to be heard. And, at an interpersonal level, I still believe that.

But I no longer believe that everything needs to be heard that is broadcast on the news or on social media.

I'm choosing to listen to those who share sources and facts; to voices of reason, and to the still small voice of conscience.

For me, part of what it means to be a people who listen deeply is deciding whose voices are not being heard--for they are often the ones who need to be heard most. As leaders of TUUC, we end Board meetings and Program Council meetings with the question, “Who might we have forgotten to include in our discussions, deliberations, and decisions?”

Ask and answer that question, and, as Joyce Sutphen writes, “This is your chance to listen carefully. Your whole life might depend on what you hear.”

NEXT AUCTION COACHING SESSION:

Wednesday, October 14: 7:30 PM



The 2020 TUUC Auction Committee has scheduled several online Auction Coaching Sessions! These are Zoom meetings that will cover a variety of topics including: how to enter your donation, introducing Bid Beacon—the software hosting our Virtual Auction, as well as various highlights of Auction Night events! All are encouraged to attend these online sessions. More information is available [here](#).

TUUC AUCTION 2020—DIAMOND JUBLIATION! OCT 11 - NOV 21

Our 2020 “*Diamond Jubilation!*” Auction is now present in a big way on the TUUC website. To get there from the home page, go to *EVENTS* along the top and click on *AUCTION*. You can also find the *AUCTION* link on the left side if you’re viewing the church calendar. Click [here](#) for a preview. You’ll find everything you need to know about the Auction: News, schedules, how to donate, descriptions of donations, how to enter the Auction and bid, the Auction Night program, and Help and Support with links to get personal responses to questions or problems that you might be having. The Auction section is updated frequently so be sure to check back regularly.



Please keep the donations coming. Bidding this year is extended. While we’ll continue accepting donations, please try to submit your donation(s) before bidding starts on October 11th. This will give them maximum exposure to interested buyers and help boost the Auction’s success. It will also help the Auction Committee finalize the list of “Live” (Auction night only) items and prevent some donations from being unnecessarily blocked from open bidding.

Be sure to get on *Bid Beacon*, our virtual auction software—via [this link](#). You’ll need to be on Bid Beacon to get an up-to-the-minute view of all that’s being offered and the current bid and availability statuses. Most importantly, you need to be on Bid Beacon in order to bid. As in past years, some of the very best items and activities are being offered at a fixed price and sell-out quickly once bidding is opened. With this year’s extended bidding period, you may be disappointed if you wait very long after bidding opens on October 11th to enter the Auction and start bidding.



You’re able to “practice” bid at this time but all practice bids and sales will be erased at noon on October 11th when the Auction officially opens. Donations will continue to be added until just before Auction Night, November 21st so you’ll want to get back on Bid Beacon often. Some of the top donations will be reserved for “Live” bidding and will only be made available during a brief period on Auction Night. These are analogous to the Voice Bid items in our traditional auction.

We are counting on volunteers to help with a variety of tasks before, during and after Auction Night. We need technical helpers, drivers, donation organizers, and proxy bidders. If you’re willing to help or think you might be interested, please send an email to auctionvolunteer@towsonuuc.org to offer your help or to start a dialog. Thank you.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS 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—DICK JOHNSON IS DEAD

In this funny and poignant documentary, a daughter (Director Kirsten Johnson) and her elderly father grapple with his impending death. (Available on Netflix. Rated PG-13.)

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/wfTmT6C5DnM>

Discussion: Saturday, October 10, 4 PM.



NEXT WEEK—THE CABIN IN THE WOODS

This very intelligent horror-comedy operates as a meta-commentary on the genre as a whole. Imagine a slasher film written by Joseph Campbell and starring Chris Hemsworth. Get ready for Halloween!

(Available on Amazon Prime. Rated R.)

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

Discussion: Saturday, October 17, 4 PM.



GREEN SANCTUARY—FAIR TRADE COFFEE/TEA/CHOCOLATE SALES

Are you missing your organic fair trade coffee, tea and (perhaps most importantly) chocolate? To continue our support for fair trade farmers who are hurting due to decreased congregational sales during this time of COVID, the Green Sanctuary Committee will once again be offering Equal Exchange products for sale.



You have two options:

- (1) if you regularly buy from us, you may wish to place a "subscription" order for a case, and we will automatically order for you each month (for example, order a case of Breakfast Blend (6 bags) each month).
- (2) place an ad hoc order for individual items as you wish each month.

Please submit your order by sending an email to Carel Hedlund (info in Breeze) no later than **Saturday October 10th**. Orders will be ready for pick-up at TUUC "front porch" on Saturday morning October 17th from 10-12 (considering combining pick-up with the work party!).

You can make payment by check, Paypal or texting to TUUC. Specific payment information will be provided when you order.

Organic Products available in October:

Regular Coffee: (\$10/bag; \$60 for a case of 6 unless otherwise indicated. Available in drip grind or whole bean unless otherwise indicated.)

Sister's Blend - 1 lb (\$50 for case of 5)

Mama Tierra - 1 lb (\$50 for case of 5)

Breakfast Blend - 12 oz

Columbian - 12 oz.

French Roast - 10 oz.

Love Buzz - 10 oz.

Mind, Body, Soul 12 oz.

African Roots - 12 oz. (Drip grind only).



Decaf Coffee: (\$11/bag; \$66 for case of 6)

Tea: (\$4/box; \$24 for a case of 6)

Earl Grey

Jasmine Green Tea

Ginger

Green Tea with Ginger

Chamomile

Chai

English Breakfast



Chocolate Bars: \$4/each:

Milk Chocolate

Very Dark Chocolate

Extremely Dark Chocolate

Dark Chocolate Almond

Dark Chocolate Orange

Dark Chocolate Lemon Ginger with Black Pepper

Chocolate with Coconut Milk (vegan)

Dark Chocolate Caramel with Sea Salt

Dark Chocolate Mint

Total Eclipse Dark Chocolate

Bag of 25 Dark Chocolate Minis (\$6)



VESPERS SERVICE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

FROM 7-7:30 PM



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 music@towsonuuc.org if you plan to come for the first time.

SAC MEETING—OCTOBER 11 AT NOON

The Social Action Committee will meet on Sunday October 11, at *noon*, following the Service and Coffee. An agenda will be sent to SAC Members. All are welcome! See church calendar for Zoom information.

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP HAPPY HOUR – SATURDAY 10/24 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. Please call Ronald Rowley to RSVP and to get more information. He is listed in the church directory.

PROGRAM COUNCIL MEETING—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 AT 7:30 PM

The Program Council will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 14, at 7:30 PM. All are welcome to join us as we discuss upcoming programming at TUUC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 AT 11:45 AM

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. If you would like an Absentee Ballot, please contact secretary@towsonuuc.org or call the church office and leave a message.

Here is the Zoom information for the meeting:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96271752060>

Meeting ID: 962 7175 2060

Passcode: 385225

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 962 7175 2060

Passcode: 385225

YOU'RE INVITED TO TUUC

VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR

THIS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

FROM 5-6 PM



TUUC SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS PARTNER WE SUPPORT?

For October, we highlight the TUUC Social Action Community Partner, the Assistance Center of Towson Churches. ACTC has been a TUUC Community partner longer than any other organization. In the age of Covid, when so many are losing their income and may even be homeless, the need for food and other assistance is greater than ever.

Coming up is the big Thanksgiving Food Bag program, which will allow many families to have a Thanksgiving dinner. *See the article below "ACTC THANKSGIVING PROJECT."*

To contribute to ACTC, use one of these methods:

1. Send a check payable to TUUC and send to 1710 Dulaney Valley Rd. Lutherville MD 21093 and specify "ACTC" on the memo line, or,
2. Donate directly at this link: <http://actconline.info>

Thank you for your generosity!

ACTC THANKSGIVING PROJECT

This project will begin in October. This year TUUC will do things differently because of the pandemic. Rather than purchasing delivered food baskets, we are asking for monetary donations. ACTC works with several local grocery stores. A \$25 donation will purchase a basket. In the past, we have suggested giving \$10 extra to cover the cost of a turkey. ACTC is hoping that each church will be able to donate enough money for 50 baskets. (Last year we passed the 60-basket mark.) Send your check, payable to TUUC, with the memo: "ACTC-Thanksgiving Basket". Our bookkeeper will keep a record of our donations. November 15 is the deadline for donations. One final note—volunteers will be needed at ACTC to help with the distribution of the baskets.

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 times, from 3-4 pm, on Oct 22, Nov 12, Nov 19, and Dec 10. To register, contact Art Starr at mensgroup@towsonuuc.org.



IN MEMORY OF THE REVEREND DAVID HICKS MACPHERSON

The Reverend David Hicks MacPherson, the first minister of our congregation, died, peacefully, on September 25, 2020 after a day of calls with friends and a week in which he celebrated his 92nd birthday.

Dave and I last spoke this past January as TUUC prepared to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee. I was somewhat surprised to have reached Dave as he was usually out biking! A decade ago, he traveled from Richmond to preach as part of TUUC celebrating its Golden Anniversary. He preached on *"Who We Were, Are, And Ought To Be."* He remembered the names of members. He remembered this congregation's witness during the Civil Rights movement. He remembered finding, on our grounds, the shoes of a baby of people who were enslaved, over a century and a half ago, as part of Hampton Mansion.



The Richmond UU congregation wrote of The Reverend MacPherson, "He never missed an opportunity to share a story or an experience. He held deep convictions about social justice, and was a staunch advocate for inclusion and civil rights of all marginalized people. He lived out his faith through involvement in every community in which he lived, and saw the future of Unitarian Universalism in every young face he encountered."

A staunch Universalist, last January, David was writing an article for The Unitarian Universalist Association's World magazine on a Unitarian Universalist theology for the 21st century. Dave was a beloved minister and cherished colleague who was always ready to help and had a hearty laugh. He will be greatly missed.

Rev. Dave is survived by his daughter Dianna, son Duncan, granddaughter Erin, and grandson Ian. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy, and his son Douglas. An online memorial service will be held on October 24, 2020 at 4 PM via the [First UU Church of Richmond, VA](#). Notes of condolences may be sent to Dianna MacPherson, 903 Kilby Station Rd., Ashland, VA 23005. Alternatively, emails of condolence may be sent to MacPhersonFamilyRVA@gmail.com.

----Rev. Clare

MUSICIANS WANTED FOR SUNDAY SERVICES



If you play an instrument or feel comfortable singing as a soloist, we need you! Please contact Music Director Tracy Hall at music@towsonuuc.org if you have an interest in sharing music with the congregation in our Zoom services.

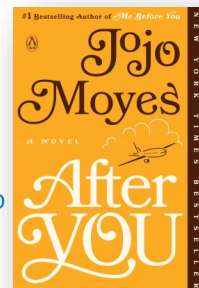
TUUC BOOK CLUB

November 11, 2020, 7:30PM: After You by Jojo Moyes (2015—384 pages)

How do you move on after losing the person you loved? How do you build a life worth living?

Louisa Clark is no longer just an ordinary girl living an ordinary life. After the transformative six months spent with Will Traynor, she is struggling without him. When an extraordinary accident forces Lou to return home to her family, she can't help but feel she's right back where she started.

Her body heals, but Lou herself knows that she needs to be kick-started back to life. Which is how she ends up in a church basement with the members of the Moving On support group, who share insights, laughter, frustrations, and terrible cookies.



ZOOM INFO:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97682083778>

Meeting ID: 976 8208 3778

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 976 8208 3778

WRITING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

You are invited to drop in to "Writing As A Spiritual Practice from 1:00-2:00 on Friday, Oct. 16th. 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. ---Rev. Clare



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.

AMAZON SMILE QUARTERLY DONATION: \$102.83



Thank you for choosing Towson UUC as your preferred charity with Amazon Smile! Every time you use the site with TUUC listed as your preferred charity, Amazon donates a small amount (0.5%) from your purchase to our church. This quarter, TUUC made \$102.83 from Amazon Smile donations.

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

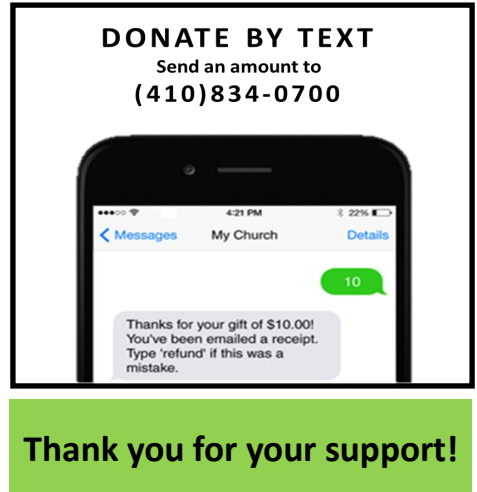
You may use PayPal to pay your pledge to treasurer@towsonuuc.org. To avoid additional fees, send your contribution to the setting "family and friends" and please note the purpose of your donation in the message area.

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.

9 Oct	Friday	Happy Hour	5:00 PM
9 Oct	Friday	YRUU Bonfire at TUUC	7:00 PM
11 Oct	Sunday	Family Meetings/Classes	9:00 AM
11 Oct	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
11 Oct	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:00 PM
11 Oct	Sunday	OWL Middle School Sessions—Back Up Date	4:30 PM
12 Oct	Monday	Vespers	7:00 PM
13 Oct	Tuesday	Coffee with the Minister	12:00 PM
13 Oct	Tuesday	Aging Together	1:00 PM
13 Oct	Tuesday	Soul Matters	7:30 PM
14 Oct	Wednesday	Program Council Meeting	7:30 PM
14 Oct	Wednesday	Auction Coaching Session	7:30 PM
15 Oct	Thursday	Rehearsal	6:00 PM
15 Oct	Thursday	Virtual Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
16 Oct	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
17 Oct	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM

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
10/4/2020	10:30 AM	74



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 RE
tuudre@towsonuuc.org

Music Director:

Tracy Hall
music@towsonuuc.org

Church Administrator:

Kai Aiyetoro
churchoffice@towsonuuc.org

Communications and Outreach Coordinator:

Philip Browne
news@towsonuuc.org

Bookkeeper:

Raly Baltchev
bookkeeper@towsonuuc.org

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 churchoffice@towsonuuc.org.

