



The Threshold

Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church
A Welcoming Congregation

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

**REMINDER—DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS ON SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 1 AT 2:00AM (FALL BACK...)**

NOVEMBER 1, 2020 - 10:30 AM

REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER: *IN THE AFTER LIFE...*



There is a Celtic saying that heaven and earth are only three feet apart, but in the thin places, that distance is even shorter. Traditionally, this weekend has been a time to celebrate thin places. Father Richard Rohr writes of such times and places, “we are betwixt and between, having left one room or stage of life but not yet entered another...it is a graced time, but often does not feel ‘graced’ in any way. In such space, we are not certain or in control.” Such uncertainty describes where many of us find ourselves in the midst of a pandemic and with the U. S. election in two days. How do we cope with uncertainty? The neuroscientist David Eagleman will be our guide today.

VIRTUAL VESPERS – NOVEMBER 2 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

Our faith reminds us that healing takes work. After a fight with someone, you may never want to see that person again. It is easier to run away from the mess, whether we are the ones who did the harm or got harmed. It takes courage, commitment, and skill to travel the path of healing. What is one of the ways our faith guides us into becoming a people of healing? It tells us, “Don’t run away from the hard work of healing!”

The Kindergarten through 7th grade groups will start discussion of this theme on Sunday. Families with children in those grades are invited to join us at 9 am

CLARE'S COLLOQUY

Over a month ago, I was sitting with colleagues who were already planning worship for Epiphany (January.) Someone mentioned the number of Biblical stories in this year's lectionary cycle about Jesus healing people. And someone else responded, "It's too soon to talk about healing." I understood the context. This person meant that losses from the pandemic of Covid-19; from climate change; from the political divisions in our country need to be mourned and grieved. But aren't mourning and grieving a part of healing?

Our spiritual question for this month is, "What does it mean to be a people of healing?" The story that I need to hear does not come from the Bible. It does not involve the lame walking or the dead being resurrected. It does not involve any quick fixes or cures.

The story I need to hear is from the grandfather of Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen. On her fourth birthday he told her:

"In the beginning, there was only the holy darkness, the Ein Sof, the source of life. Then, in the course of history, at a moment in time, this world, the world of a thousand, thousand things, emerged from the heart of the holy darkness as a great ray of light. And then, perhaps because this is a Jewish story, there was an accident. [laughs] And the vessels containing the light of the world, the wholeness of the world, broke. And the wholeness in the world, the light of the world, was scattered into a thousand, thousand fragments of light. And they fell into all events and all people, where they remain deeply hidden until this very day..."

"...the whole human race is a response to this accident. We are here because we are born with the capacity to find the hidden light in all events and all people; to lift it up and make it visible once again and, thereby, to restore the innate wholeness of the world. This is a very important story for the world today. This task is called tikkun olam in Hebrew, which means the restoration of the whole world. This is a collective task. It involves all people who have ever been born, all people presently alive and all people yet to be born. We are all healers of the world."

It is never too soon to talk about healing. Healing is a process which we cannot will or control. But we can make choices that contribute to the health of our bodies, the peace our minds, and the wholeness of our spirits. The story Dr. Remen heard as a four-year-old greatly impacted her vocation as a doctor. How does hearing that you are exactly who is needed to heal the world touch and inspire you?

For me, it is harder to find the hidden light in all events. I need a spiritual community that reassures me that by looking for the hidden light in all whose lives we touch, we restore the innate wholeness of the world. I need a spiritual community that reminds me that we collectively have the strength to continue the work of repairing and restoring wholeness to heal the world. Gratitude for the opportunity to live out, together, our answer to the question, "What does it mean to be a people of healing?"

REVISED BYLAWS APPROVED AT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We did it! Four years after starting a process of examining our governance structure, the congregation voted overwhelming in favor of the revised Bylaws and the amended and restated Articles of Incorporation on October 25, 2020.

This removes matters of policy from the Bylaws, and empowers the Board of Trustees, the Administrative Team and the Program Council.

We had 60 Members present at the meeting plus an additional nine Members submitted an absentee ballot in advance. We had outside assistance from the Rev. David Pyle of the UUA and from attorneys at Ferguson, Schetelich, & Ballew. But mostly, the hard work of this four-year effort was completed by members of this congregation, including Jasmine Stock, the members of the Governance Task Force, and the members of the Bylaws Committee of the Board, and Trustees. Deep appreciation and gratitude for all!



COFFEE WITH THE MINISTER: TUESDAYS AT NOON

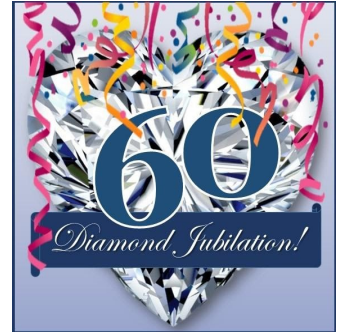


Virtually share a cup of coffee or some other beverage of your choice (or even eat lunch) with Rev. Clare. Our conversations have ranged from the beauty of nature to pets on the screen to concern for our upcoming elections. What's on your mind and heart today? Check the TUUC Website for Zoom Information.

TUUC AUCTION 2020—DIAMOND JUBLIATION! NOW THRU AUCTION NIGHT NOV 21

We need more donations! There is still plenty of time to donate to the TUUC 2020 Auction. It's easy and the Auction Committee is ready to provide whatever assistance you need to make the process simple and gratifying.

We'll be accepting donations up until late during the week of Auction Night, but it's important not to wait that long. Last minute donations will be more subject to listing miscues and the delay will keep your donation from being considered by the growing number of enthusiasts who are already placing bids. Most importantly, a big rush of eleventh-hour donations will stress-out our hardworking Auction volunteers.



Please go to [Auction 2020 Donation Form](#) for the Donation Form which you can fill-out and submit on-the-spot. Detailed instructions are available here: [Auction 2020 Donation Form Instructions](#)

If you still need help deciding what to donate, you can go to [WHAT CAN I DONATE?](#) For ideas or click on [VIEW DONATIONS](#) to see what's been donated thus far.

If all of this clicking is just too much you can send an email to: auctiondonations@towsonuuc.org or to auctionhelp@towsonuuc.org to provide the information about your donation, start a dialog with a helpful volunteer or ask for a call-back.

By the way, you can find all of this information and all of these links in the Auction Section of TUUC's website. Just go to www.towsonuuc.org/auction.

While you're at it you may want to get on Bid Beacon, so you can bid on the approx. 80 donations that have been received thus far. Detailed instructions for downloading Bid Beacon are on the website. See [GET WITH THE PROGRAM](#). For a more personal learning experience attend one of the upcoming ZOOM Auction Coaching Sessions hosted by Auction Committee Members. Times and the ZOOM Link for these are shown on **Page 8** of this issue of the Threshold, on the Church Calendar and in the HELP AND SUPPORT section under Auction in the website.

UUA POST ELECTION VIGIL

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5 AT 8:00 PM

No matter the results of the election this year, we know we will want to gather in community. Join UU the Vote and UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick Gray for this Virtual Event. More information available [here](#).



UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT TUUC

BREEZE PHOTOS

In this time of social quarantine, we miss seeing one another. One way we can still safely see each other is by uploading our photo in our church software, Breeze. If you have not done so, please consider doing so, now. If you need assistance in doing so, please contact Kai at churchoffice@towsonuuc.org or send her your photo. Thank you!

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—BORAT SUBSEQUENT MOVIEFILM

Sacha Baron Cohen reprises his role as a clueless reporter from Kazakhstan traveling the United States. Wildly irreverent and wildly inappropriate, but certain to expose undercurrents of American dysfunction. (Available on Amazon Prime. Rated R.)

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/HOwaypo3jC4>

Discussion: Saturday, October 31, 4 PM

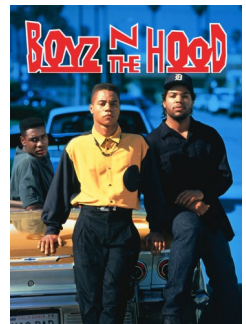


NEXT WEEK—BOYZ N THE HOOD

This Oscar-nominated 1991 drama follows a group of young African-American men as they navigate life in a dangerous Los Angeles neighborhood. (Available on Netflix. Rated R.)

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/J4sKiGzkJo>

Discussion: Saturday, November 6, 4 PM



LISTENING SESSIONS ON TUUC IN VIRTUAL SPACE

In July, we held conversations on virtual programming since moving as a spiritual community. As a result, an intentional effort is being made to offer both live and recorded music in worship and new programs such as "Messy Lives" and "Socratic Circles" were added.

Heading into a winter with continued social distancing, we are seeking feedback on what is and is not working for you in terms of virtual programming for Worship, Youth Religious Exploration, Adult Religious Exploration, and other virtual TUUC programs. The information received will be used for two purposes:

- 1) To tweak existing virtual programs or create new ones for our congregation.
- 2) To develop, in conjunction with the feedback received last winter, a survey for how we will organize ourselves in our brick and mortar building (when it is truly safe for all to gather again) as well as in virtual space.

We need and welcome your participation in one of two possible upcoming meetings:

November 4 at 7:30 PM

Meeting ID: 996 4505 2333, Passcode: 539350

Phone Number: 1-301-715-8592

November 8 at 1:00 PM

Meeting ID: 951 6265 4791, Passcode: 411265

Phone Number: 1-301-715-8592

As we head into shorter days with less sunlight, we very much look forward to your input on ways to sustain and deepen our communal life in virtual space.

Rev. Clare, The Committee on Ministries, and the Sunday Morning Structure Task Force.

WRITING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

You are invited to drop in to "Writing As A Spiritual Practice from 1:00-2:00 on Friday, November 6. We will introduce ourselves; I will share a writing prompt based on poems by Mary Oliver; 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

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 Nov 12 Nov 19, and Dec 10. To register, contact Art Starr at mensgroup@towsonuuc.org.

UPDATE ON THE TUUC COVID CARE FUND

TUUC is a caring congregation. In May of 2020, the TUUC Board approved establishing a fund (for up to two years) to help members experiencing financial hardship due to Covid 19. Fifteen members and friends donated \$2,700 to the Covid Care Fund. To date, \$1,305 has been distributed. Your kindness has made a real difference. As anyone who has watched "It's A Wonderful Life" knows, feeling the love and support of a community is a deeply moving and meaningful experience. It is a reminder that we are not alone. We are part of an interdependent web of relationships.

Thank you for your generosity. ---Rev. Clare

**TUUC SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE
ACTC THANKSGIVING PROJECT—PLEASE SEND
DONATIONS BY NOVEMBER 15**

This year TUUC will do things differently because of the pandemic. Rather than purchasing delivered food baskets, we are asking only for monetary donations. 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.)



1. Send your check, payable to TUUC, with the memo: "ACTC-Thanksgiving Basket". Our bookkeeper will keep a record of your donations. Or
2. Text your donation to: 410-834-0700 thru the Social Action Committee, amount + SAC (ex: text "35 SAC" to give \$35), Or
3. Donate directly on the Assistance Center of Towson Churches website: <http://actconline.info/> See this website for any further information about ACTC.

Thank you for your generosity.

ACTC WILL ALSO NEED VOLUNTEERS TO RECEIVE, PACK, AND DISTRIBUTE THE FOOD

You may volunteer for a 2.5-hour shift at Trinity Episcopal Church, 120 Allegheny Ave., Towson to receive and pack donations on November 18, 19, or 20 (Wed- Fri) or

Help distribute the bags, Nov 23 or 24 (Mon & Tue) also at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Please complete [this form](#), indicating that you are interested in helping at Thanksgiving and noting the day(s) you are available. You will be contacted about your shifts and work assignment.

UPCOMING AUCTION COACHING SESSIONS:

Friday October 30 at 7:30 PM, Thursday, November 5 at 7:30 PM

Saturday, November 7 at 10 AM, and Monday, November 9 at 7:30 PM



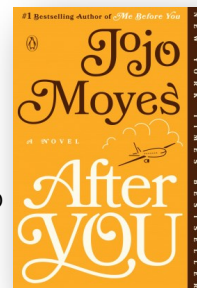
The 2020 TUUC Auction Committee has scheduled several online Auction Coaching Sessions! These are Zoom meetings that will cover a variety of topics including: how to enter your donation, introducing Bid Beacon—the software hosting our Virtual Auction, as well as various highlights of Auction Night events!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

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

JOIN THE TUUC CHOIR

TUUC Choir will soon be starting its first virtual choir project. We'll be working on several pieces of music to become audio and/or video recorded projects. We'll be learning some Christmas music soon as well! Come join us at Thursday evening rehearsals from 7:30 to around 8:45. We've been slowly learning the recording process, "checking in" with one another, and learning some music while muted. We'd love to add you to the mix!

SOLOISTS FOR SUNDAYS

We'd like to have TUUC friends of all ages to present or lead music on Sundays. If you play an instrument or feel comfortable singing live during the Zoom service, please contact Music Director Tracy Hall and let her know what you have in mind. Variety is wonderful!

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS FOR THE THRESHOLD

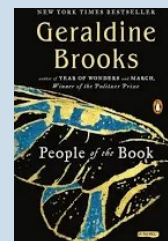
TUUC committees are encouraged to submit an article or announcement to the weekly published Threshold newsletter. Please remember the deadline is **Wednesday at 12:00 PM** and should be sent to news@towsonuuc.org.

NEXT BOOK CLUB MEETING

ON DECEMBER 2

AT 7:30PM:

The People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks (2008)



DENOMINATIONAL MINUTE



The 2020–2021 UUA Common Read is *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons* by Imani Perry, published by Beacon Press.

Emotionally raw and deeply reflective, Imani Perry issues a challenge to society to see Black children as deserving of humanity.

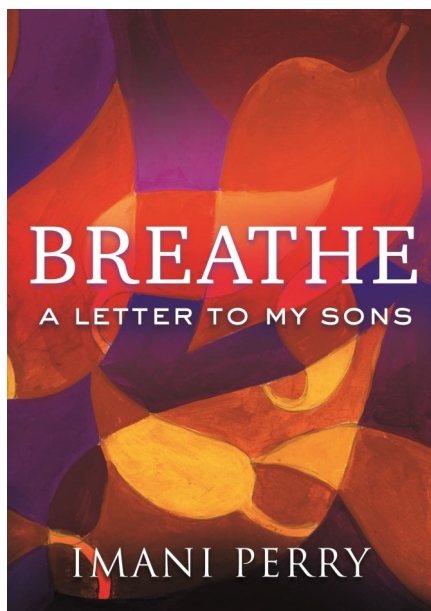
She admits fear and frustration for her sons in a society that is increasingly racist and at times seems irredeemable. However, as a mother, feminist, writer, and intellectual, Perry offers an unfettered expression of love—finding beauty and possibility in life—and she

exhorts her children and their peers to find the courage to chart their own paths and find steady footing and inspiration in Black tradition. *Breathe* offers a broader meditation on race, gender, and the meaning of a life well lived and is also an unforgettable lesson in Black resistance and resilience.

We are in the midst of a historic national reckoning with what it means to live as a Black or Brown American and systems of institutional racism that have been operating since our country's founding. As UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, has written, "It matters that we support the uprisings whose goal is the liberation of Black people and communities who for too long have been crushed by white supremacy, militarism, and capitalism. We must find the sources within ourselves to give us courage in this moment. To resist. To risk. To sacrifice for this movement that needs all of us to succeed. To be midwives for a new era in which all of us will be free."

Discussion materials will be available for download in late fall 2020. For more information about the Common Read program visit: www.uua.org/read

--- Stephen L. Finner



VESPERS SERVICE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2 FROM 7-7:30 PM



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 Oct	Friday	Auction Coaching Session	7:30 PM
1 Nov	Sunday	Family Meetings/Classes	9:00 AM
1 Nov	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
1 Nov	Sunday	Green Sanctuary Meeting	12:00 PM
1 Nov	Sunday	YRUU	1:30 PM
2 Nov	Monday	Vespers	7:00 PM
3 Nov	Tuesday	Coffee with the Minister	12:00 PM
3 Nov	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
3 Nov	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
4 Nov	Wednesday	Listening Sessions on TUUC in Virtual Space	7:30 PM
5 Nov	Thursday	Virtual Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
5 Nov	Thursday	Auction Coaching Session	7:30 PM
5 Nov	Thursday	Caring Ministry Meeting	7:30 PM
6 Nov	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
7 Nov	Saturday	Auction Coaching Session	10:00 AM
8 Nov	Sunday	Family Meetings/Classes	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
10/25/2020	10:30 AM	75



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
tuucdre@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.

